

Tomorrow

Easy glider... Ronald Faux looks at the new emphasis on safety in hang-gliding.
On the road... A journey that rediscovers the splendours of old Syria.
With a backpack... How to make light work of a long walk.



Wheeling... The second part of the competition with a Ford Sierra XR4i as first prize.
Dealing... The writer in Stalin's pocket: the extraordinary story of Soviet apologist Alexei Tolstoy.
Revealing... The costs of differential mortgages, in which interest charges are higher for bigger borrowers.

Social work to open its records

People receiving help from the social services are to be given the right to see their case records, under guidance issued by the Department of Health and Social Security in a move which overturns decades of social work practice. **Page 3**

Spain by-passes Maltese tactics

Spain is going ahead with invitations to the foreign ministers of the 35 nations at the European Security Review Conference to meet in Madrid next month, despite Malta's obstructionist tactics. **Page 4**

Maxwell rebuff

Three institutional shareholders of the John Waddington games manufacturer have withdrawn their acceptance to the takeover offer from Mr Robert Maxwell's BPCF shortly before he was expected to announce he had won control. **Page 13**

Walesa chaired

Lech Walesa was carried on the shoulders of chanting supporters after a stormy meeting at the Gdansk shipyard called by the government to explain its policies. Minister Jerred, **page 5**

Murder charge

Two leaders of the Ulster Defence Association were arrested as a man was accused of murdering Mrs Maire Drumm, of Provisional Sinn Féin, in hospital, seven years ago. **Page 2**

Beirut blasts

A French soldier was killed and eight others injured in an explosion in Beirut. Another blast at the Air France office in Beirut killed three Lebanese. **Page 4**

Trudeau in peril

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, is facing a clamour from his Liberal Party backbenchers for his resignation. **Page 5**

Scientific talks

The meetings of the British Association for the Advancement of Science are reported on **page 2**.

Football trio

Scotland want to invite a leading world football country to take part in a three-cornered tournament with England to replace the Home Championship, which is being discontinued. **Page 17**

British gold

Adrian Moorhouse, aged 19, won Britain's first gold medal at the European swimming championships at Rome in the 200 metres breaststroke. **Page 16**

Leader page 9

Letters: On the Liberals, from Mr M Meadowcroft, MP, and Lord Beaumont of Whitley; university research, from Professor J M Thomas, FRSE.
Leading articles: Mitterrand and Chad; Prisoners in foreign jails; BA goes to law; Making sense of the crime figures; Pakistan's simmering province; Images to impress the voter; Spectrum: the condition of American blacks; Friday page: what children really think of their holidays; Obituary, **page 10**; Mr J Cleveland Bell.

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Two pits closed in swift action to test militants

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The National Coal Board yesterday issued its long-expected challenge to miners' leaders by announcing the immediate closure of two pits in militant coalfields regarded as test cases in the battle over economic collieries.

In the last days of Sir Norman Siddall's chairmanship of the board the industry's senior management has dismissed appeals against the shutdown of Cardowan pit near Glasgow and Brynllw mine near Swansea, employing a total of 1,400 men.

Plumets at Cardowan are holding a secret ballot to decide whether they will continue their opposition to the closure. Mr Alec Hogg, delegate of the National Union of Mineworkers there, said that if the men voted for industrial action the colliery could be occupied.

In South Wales, the NUM area executive meets today to discuss the union's next step following the "complete shock" registered locally by the closure decision.

However, the board is moving swiftly to head off a possible confrontation by ceasing coal production at Cardowan today and putting the mine on a salvage basis from Monday. Priority is being given to the transfer of men to other Scottish pits.

In the absence of Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, who is in Moscow on union business, a spokesman at union headquarters in Sheffield accused the board of "losing all sense of reason".

It was becoming "brutally clear" that the board was

operating to a government dictate to hit miners' jobs as hard as possible, he said.

"As with all bullies, they will only stop when the membership hit back," he added. The opportunity for the NUM to do so will come on September 15, when the national executive meets to decide whether the time is "appropriate" to hold a secret ballot to decide on securing a 45 per cent majority for strike action.

The initial response of union leaders yesterday, however, was cautious and points away from an early appeal for industrial action. Mr Michael McGahey, president of the Scottish miners, said that he would be seeking national talks to defend Cardowan. Its closure would be top of the agenda at next month's executive meeting.

By then the pit is likely to be shut. Of the original workforce of 1,090, about 70 have been transferred and another 30 have volunteered for redundancy. The board says that about 150 men will be kept in for salvage work and the rest will be offered jobs in the Fife Coalfield.

Mr Albert Wheeler, director of the Scottish area, said: "We now want to get these men into our more productive collieries so they can make a contribution to the area's drive for higher productivity and to improve the profitability of our pits. Older men who have given a lifetime of service to the industry can take advantage of our voluntary redundancy scheme."

A similar battle over the fate of Kinnell colliery in Scotland ended in defeat for the union over the Christmas holiday

period, and the board's main headache may be in South Wales.

Brynllw, which employs about 800 men, must close even though it has substantial reserves because it is losing £52 on every tonne brought out of the pit, the board argues. In 1983-84 it is projected to lose £6.5m and its market at an electricity generating station nearby, also scheduled to close, has collapsed.

Leaders of the South Wales miners meet today to decide whether to call for industrial action.

Mr Don Hayward, union financial secretary of the area, argued last night that the case for Brynllw was "easy iron". It had between ten and 15 years of coal reserves "and if they close Brynllw, they can threaten any colliery in the British coalfield", he claimed.

In a farewell message to the industry, Sir Norman said last night that progress was being made in the fight to become more efficient. But he insisted that the board must move out of "high cost mining capacity" to avoid further losses.

"Last year 12 per cent of output lost £275m—almost three quarters of the £374 deficit grant paid by the Government. That is a drain on the rest of the industry. It has to be remedied with as little hardship as possible to the people involved", he said.

His place will be taken by Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, next Thursday. He is expected to take a strong line with the unions.

Mitterrand ready to fight Chad rebels

From Diana Geddes, Paris

France is ready to fight the Libyan-backed rebels in Chad if they launch a new offensive against President Hissene Habré's forces, President Mitterrand stated yesterday.

While insisting that France wants a negotiated settlement, he confirmed his total opposition to any settlement involving the partition of Chad. However, he left deliberately unclear what France's response would be to any attempt by President Habré to recapture the key town of Faya-Largeau in the Libyan-occupied northern half of the country.

Earlier this week, the Chadian Government announced that it would ask France for military help when it was ready to launch its counter-offensive against Faya-Largeau.

Mitterrand insisted yesterday that the French troops "cannot be considered as an auxiliary force subject to a strategy in whose determination they have no part".

"We must now harmonize our actions. Since France's presence is considered necessary, it must be understood that she will only go where she wishes in the joint interests that she is trying to serve," The President added.

M Charles Hernu, the French Defence Minister, flew to Ndjamena at the President's request yesterday, officially "in order to inspect the French troops." However, it is expected that he will also hold talks with

President Habré to try to convince him of the desirability of avoiding further conflict in the interests of reaching a negotiated settlement.

Breaking his silence on the Chadian conflict for the first time since French troops were sent to Ndjamena at the beginning of August, Mitterrand said in an interview with *Le Monde* that the troops were continuing to fulfil France's obligations under its 1976 treaty with Chad simply to provide instruction and logistical help without engaging in any fighting. Not a single shot had been fired by a French soldier so far.

"They were also fulfilling a 'deterrent role for whoever might want to approach the zone where we are'."

As the same time Mr Jones released a copy of a letter from the New York club dated June 11, 1982, signed by the secretary of the America's Cup Committee, in which the Australia II syndicate was cleared to use the Netherlands Ship Model Basin tank testing facilities.

Mr Jones revealed he had been notified by telex by Dr Peter van Oomsanen that on Wednesday, Mr Richard Latham, a member of the New York club committee, and Mr Will Valentijn, a close relative of the designer for the US Liberty/Freedom syndicate, gave him an Affidavit containing incorrect statements attempting to suggest that Mr Lexcen was not solely responsible for the design of Australia II.

Mr van Oomsanen said the charges contained in the affidavit were untrue and he refused to sign it. He said he had previously informed the New York Club that Mr Lexcen was the sole designer.

Mr Jones said he was angered by the New York club's latest attempt to avoid racing Australia II by casting doubt on the Australian yacht's right to compete. Australia II contests the elimination final in a best of seven races with the Royal Burmah challenger, Victory 83, starting on Sunday.

Legal moves, **page 18**

Cup yacht designer may sue

From David Miller, Newport, Rhode Island

Mr Ben Lexcen, designer of the controversial Royal Perth Yacht Club challenger for the America's Cup, Australia II, is considering legal action against the New York Yacht Club, defenders of the trophy.

In the latest hostilities caused by the New York Yacht Club's repeated attempts to discredit the Australian boat, Mr Warren Jones, executive director for the Australia II syndicate, yesterday revealed that the New York club's agents tried to persuade a Dutch boatyard official to sign an affidavit swearing incorrectly that Australia II was not designed by Mr Lexcen.

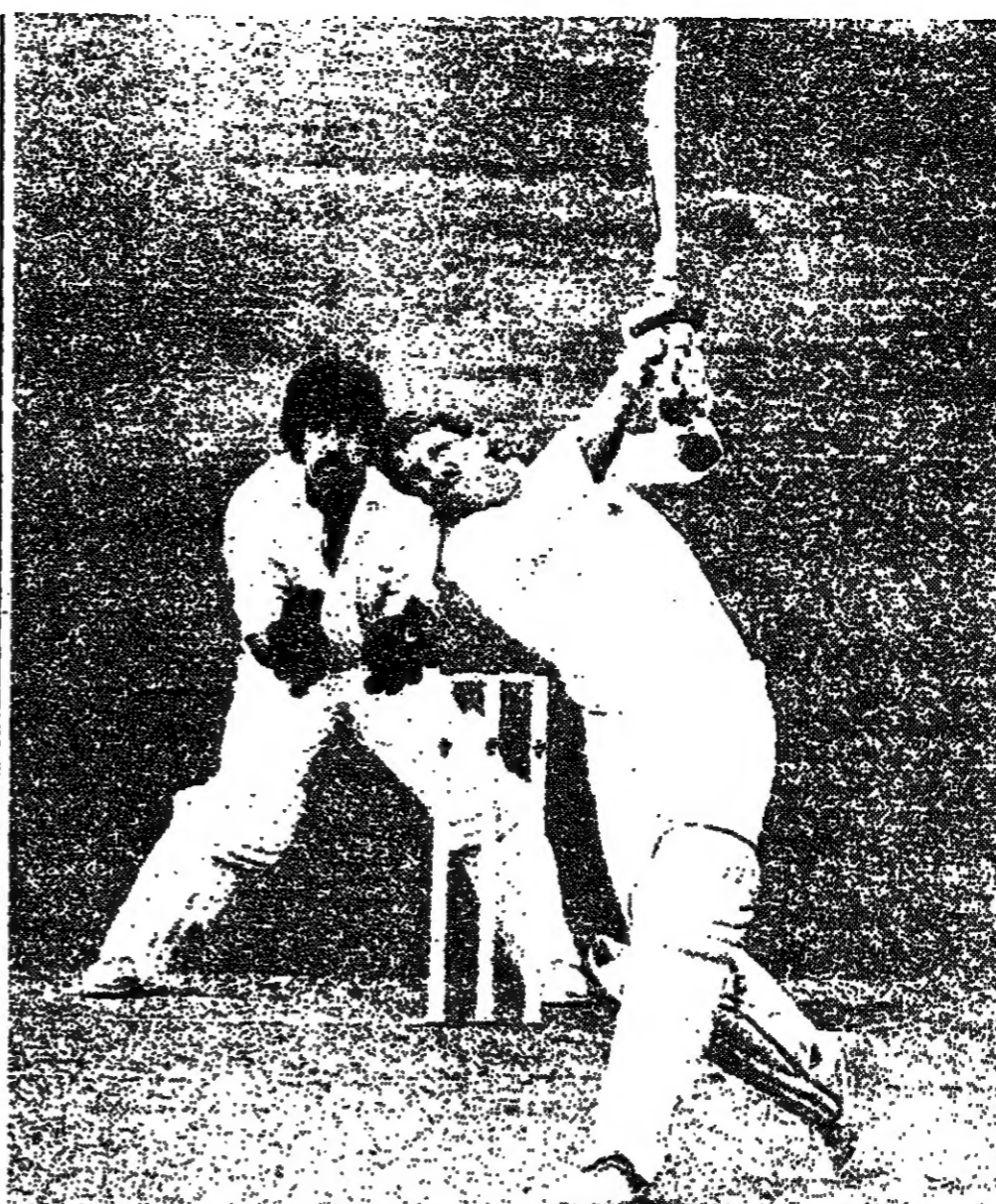
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Legal moves, **page 18**



Ian Botham hitting a six on his way to his first century for England in 22 innings. Report **page 16**. (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Union poll reveals massive support for secret ballots

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The Government's assertions that its proposed trade union law reforms have the backing of rank and file union members received significant support yesterday from an internal union poll which showed that an overwhelming number of members supported the introduction of secret ballots for strike votes and the election of executives.

The survey of members of the TUC-affiliated Inland Revenue Staff Federation (IRSF) is likely to prove an embarrassment to the union movement's campaign against the latest union curbs proposed by Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment.

Mr Tebbit's proposals, and the question whether or not the unions should enter talks with him, will be major controversies at the TUC congress in Blackpool in ten days and ministers are certain to capitalize on the union study showing that 94 per cent of its members think a secret ballot should be held before industrial action is called.

In a further question in the opinion poll, conducted for the union by a firm of industrial communications consultants,

between 63 per cent and 75 per cent, depending on their grade, supported secret ballots for election of the union executives. The 65,000-strong IRSF has a tradition of being a moderate union, but during the 1981 civil service strikes it was at the forefront of the industrial action and was able to claim stronger membership support for the pay campaign than most of the eight other unions involved.

Union leaders argued last night that the poll should not be interpreted as complete membership support for the Tebbit proposals because it covered a wide range of issues, including calls for greater industrial democracy, which were ignored by the White Paper last month.

Mr Tebbit intends to introduce a Bill during the next parliamentary session covering compulsory secret ballots. It is likely that next month's Congress will authorize talks with the minister on his proposals, but only on the basis of continued opposition to the curbs.

Mr Anthony Christopher, general secretary of the IRSF, who is a member of the TUC general council, said last night that "in a very simple sense"

the study could be taken as backing for the Government's plans but the legislation proposed "displayed an abysmal ignorance of the way unions are run".

He announced that the IRSF executive would be taking immediate action to implement recommendations of the poll although the final decision will rest with a special union conference in December. If there is conference support, the principle of pre-strike secret ballots will be adopted straight away.

The importance of the survey can be gauged from the fact that Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, issued a statement welcoming it, and Mr Patrick Lowry, chairman of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, was at yesterday's news conference which unveiled the findings.

Mr Murray said the survey showed "the capacity of unions to take account of the interests and concerns of their own particular membership". The Tebbit approach, which aimed to impose uniformity, was likely to be counter-productive, he said.

Thatcher sees Alliance threat

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister has changed her view about the future of the Labour Party, with a clear suggestion that she now sees the Social Democratic Party-Liberal Alliance as "the true opposition" to the Conservative Party.

During the election campaign, on June 3, Mrs Thatcher said: "The Labour Party will not die. The Labour Party will never die. If you want a good opposition you have got to reform the Labour Party, as Gaitskell was trying to do, to take away the state socialism."

But in an interview in the latest edition of the *Director* magazine, published today, she suggests that Labour will never again take office.

Mrs Thatcher says: "Socialism and Britain go ill together. It is not the British character. I believe that the Labour Party went wrong when the 'wets' were sold nationalization and central state control as part of their philosophy."

"Therefore, when the Conservative Party took over the basic welfare state, which we have done, the Labour Party found the only place it could go was to get more and more state control, and more and more reliance on government for housing and for jobs, until people became the pawns of government. Freedom was sold down the river."

"I am going to make sure that does not come back. In the United States you have two parties based on free enterprise, freedom and justice. Here, the two main parties have two fundamentally different philosophies."

But the Prime Minister goes on to say that the Labour Party, in her own terms, is moving further and further beyond political competition.

She says: "Socialists have always seemed to me to assume that other people were creating a world for them to distribute. And now the Labour Party is going further and further socialist."

"It wants to control the lives of people more and more. They don't want to sell council houses; they want to rent where people live and what rent they should pay. They expand the public sector, so they can say: 'You have to vote for me because your job depends upon it.'"

Her interviewer asks: "The true opposition to you would be what?"

The Prime Minister replies: "Well, a different way of achieving the same objective."

She is asked: "Within the same framework of free enterprise?" She replies: "Yes, yes."

Mr Roy Jenkins, former leader of the Social Democratic Party, commented yesterday on the remarks that Mrs Thatcher had made during the election campaign: "She wanted Labour to be the main party of

Continued on back page, col 1

350 jailed Britons may be sent home

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The first step towards transferring to British jails hundreds of Britons held in foreign prisons was taken by the Government yesterday when Mr Christopher Lush, Britain's Ambassador to the Council of Europe, signed in Strasbourg the Council's convention on the repatriation of prisoners.

The Government now proposes to introduce legislation as soon as possible to ratify the convention. Thirteen other countries have signed including Canada and the United States. Another signatory is Spain where 70 prisoners are on the case-load of the National Council for the Welfare of Prisoners Abroad. Britain intends to make bilateral agreements with other countries.

The council estimates that about 1,000 British subjects are imprisoned abroad for criminal offences.

According to official British

estimates there are 350 British subjects eligible for transfer from countries which have already signed the convention.

A total of about 530 foreign nationals are held in British jails, 320 of them from countries covered by the convention. Agreement to repatriate has to be given in each case by the prisoner and two countries involved. It is not expected to include the transfer of terrorists.

Under the convention, a prisoner must have at least six months of his sentence left to serve and be a national of the state to which he is to be transferred. No appeal against sentence or conviction must be outstanding and the normal time limit for appeal must have expired.

The Home Office said yesterday that the contents of the convention would be considered.

Briton in Saudi jail, **page 3**
Leading article, **page 9**

American women hopping mad at bunny gibe

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

He has come in for strong criticism from women's organizations because of some disparaging references made by officials about Miss Barbara Honneger, official who has created a storm by assailing the Administration's record on women's rights.

In what would appear to be an attempt to discredit Miss Honneger, who headed a task force looking into sexually discriminating legislation, government spokesmen have referred to her as "a low-level muckin'" and an "Easter bunny".

House spokesman, said that the last time he recalled seeing Miss Honneger was when she was dressed up as "an Easter bunny in the White House Easter egg roll".

In an attempt to be funny which left many White House reporters grinning, he added: "It was quite an admirable thing to do. It is not easy to dress up in that hot bunny suit. I've never done it, and I'm sort of ashamed to admit it."

Miss Honneger, who has become something of a folk hero among women's groups since her critique on the Administration's record appeared in *The Washington Post*



President Reagan: Plagued by the "gender gap".

not of what I have done but of what they have not done."

Ever since he came to office President Reagan has been plagued by the "gender gap". A recent poll showed that his approval rating among women was only 34 per cent compared with 51 per cent among men. As there are substantially more women of voting age than there are men, this gap could have serious implications for the President if he decides to seek a second term.

Unemployment and cuts in social benefits have fallen more heavily on women than men. Many are alarmed by his "macho" image on defence and nuclear weapons issues. His

stand on abortion and the equal rights amendment has also caused widespread alienation.

Earlier this month he told a conference of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women: "I happen to be one who believes if it wasn't for women, us new would still be walking around in skin suits, carrying clubs". The women found the remark offensive because it implied that a woman's role was at home supporting a man.

A big campaign is being prepared to demonstrate the President's commitment to sexual equality. This could include a "men culpa" speech and apportion to try harder in the months ahead.



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East and West getting together

Angry delegates stage sit-in over Malta at Madrid conference

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain announced yesterday that it is going ahead with invitations to the foreign ministers of the 35 nations at the European Security Review Conference to come for a major East-West gathering here early next month, regardless of Malta still pursuing obstructionist tactics.

Señor Fernando Moran, the Spanish Foreign Minister, is anxious for Madrid to be the scene between September 7 and 11 of an encounter between Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Minister.

The foreign ministers' gathering, diplomats explained, would be held technically outside the security conference framework with invitations issued by Spain through the normal diplomatic channels.

Malta has obliged the 34 Western Communist and neutral countries to adopt this consensus on a 35-page final document dealing with East-West relations which everyone else accepted on July 15.

A formal concluding session of the almost three-year long Madrid meeting would have to be held later.

The disruptive tactics of the Maltese Government reached their nadir yesterday, visibly angering the heads of all the other delegations.

The delegates, who had flown in from their capitals hoping Malta would finally relent, found themselves confronted by a Maltese junior diplomat who simply told them he had no instructions.

When Mr Mario Buttigieg appealed for an adjournment until later in the day when he said Mr Evaristo Saliba, Malta's chief delegate, was due to reach Madrid, all the delegates refused him point blank and began a kind of sit-in.

"We are not accepting that our procedures at this conference should be dictated by Malta", Sir Anthony Williams, the chief British delegate said later. Like other envoys, he left a deputy closeted in silence with the Maltese junior diplomat in a conference room of a big Madrid hotel.

Mr Max Kampelman, the chief United States delegate, left swiftly, indicating through aides an intention to go back to Washington.

"We are sitting it out, taking turns to go to the men's room or to the ladies," was how Dr

Joerg Kasl, of West Germany, described the delegates' tactics.

Two of the largest available *ensaimadas*, the typical wheel-shaped sweet cakes from Majorca, were taken in for snacks to underline their will to sit it out. Several emerged to express barely diplomatic views over Malta's wisdom in alienating any remaining disposition to negotiate a compromise over its demands.

These are that the Mediterranean region's security problems should be treated on the same level as those of Europe by the 35 nations, but no other delegation really wants to overload the already difficult East-West relationship with the problems of the Middle East.

Well past lunch hour, and with their anger subsiding, the delegates decided to relent and to adjourn and await the chief Maltese delegate.

But when Mr Saliba appeared it was only to reject a proposal by Switzerland to hold the next meeting on the day before the foreign ministers are due to arrive, and to demand reconsideration of Malta's wants.

Delegates were still in conference after hours of discussions last night.

US signs Moscow grain deal

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Mr John Block, the American Agriculture Secretary, yesterday met Mr Geidar Aliyev, the Soviet Deputy Prime Minister, in what is seen as a further move towards easing Soviet-American relations.

Mr Block described the talks as "constructive, useful and friendly", although some diplomats were sceptical, pointing out that the Kremlin and the White House remained at daggers drawn. Mr Block agreed there was "more work to be done".

Earlier, Mr Block had signed a new grain agreement providing for an increase in American grain supplies over the next five years. He described this as a very important occasion. Mr Nikolai Patolichev, the Soviet Foreign Trade Minister, who signed on behalf of Russia, nodded and said "yes".

It was not the most earth shattering exchange between politicians of East and West but it did mark a slight thaw in the distinctly chilly relations between Moscow and the Reagan Administration. Mr Block is the most senior administration official to visit here since the funeral of President Brezhnev last November.

The meeting with Mr Aliyev, who is a full Politburo member, is seen as a sign that both sides are using the visit to explore a political rapprochement, perhaps eventually leading to an Andropov-Reagan summit. The meeting was squeezed into what amounted to a one and a half day visit.

Mr Block leaves Moscow this morning. He said on arrival on Wednesday that the new grain agreement not only marked a return to more normal trading relations but also showed that Russia and America could work

together on "issues of mutual significance".

At a press conference Mr Block said the agreement - valued at \$2 billion (£1.3 billion) a year - had put an "emphatic end to a very difficult chapter in our grain trading relations". Under the agreement the Russians will buy a minimum of nine million tonnes.

The American share of Soviet grain imports, which slumped to 20 per cent after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the ensuing grain embargo, is now expected to rise to 40 per cent.

Diplomats said, however, that it would not approach the 76 per cent share enjoyed by Washington before 1979, and added that Afghanistan remained one of several stumbling blocks.

Mr Block's visit has received

no publicity in the Soviet media, while a fierce anti-American propaganda campaign has continued unabated. *Sovetskaya Rossiya* yesterday attacked a range of American policies, describing Washington's stand on arms control as "double face".

Tass, taking a less enthusiastic line than Mr Block, described his meeting with Mr Aliyev as "businesslike".

The agency described the deal as an "agreement on trade in some agricultural commodities", avoiding all reference to Russian grain imports. It said Mr Block and Mr Aliyev expressed the hope that the agreement would "contribute to the development of mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation" and did not suggest it had wider political significance.



Moscow mirth: Mr Block, left, and Mr Patolichev after the signing of the grain agreement.

East Germans given missile message

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Herr Egon Bahr, the Social Democratic disarmament expert, yesterday held talks in East Berlin with Herr Oskar Fischer, the East German Foreign Minister, continuing the top level discussions he has been having there about the deployment of new Nato missiles in West Germany.

On Wednesday Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, gave him an unusually blunt warning that if West Germany went ahead with deployment, the Soviet Union would be "forced to station more medium-range missiles."

He also said that it would be

necessary to deploy effective kinds of operative-tactical missiles with a longer range in forward positions in Warsaw Pact countries.

His warning was prominently displayed in East German newspapers yesterday. He also told Herr Bahr that the missiles the Russians would put in East Germany would reach their targets more quickly than the Pershings aimed at Moscow. But he added that an arms agreement in Geneva was still possible.

The Christian-Social Union, whose leader Herr Franz Josef Strauss met Herr Honecker on a

controversial visit last month, criticized the East German leader's remarks as being of "little help". He said that the threatened deployment in the East raised the question whether the Soviet side was seriously interested in disarmament.

During his visit, Herr Bahr also discussed the DM1,000m (£250m) West German credit to East Berlin. The two countries' close economic links were further underlined earlier this week by West German trade figures for the first half of 1983, which showed that trade with East Germany rose by 16 per cent over last year.

Insults fly as Cameroon chiefs wrangle

Paris (AFP) - The former Cameroonian President Mr Ahmadou Ahidjo renewed his attack on the protégé he put in power 10 months ago, President Paul Biya, calling him a "weakling", a "swindler" and a "hypocrite".

Speaking from his residence in the south of France, he said that he had refused a recent demand by Mr Biya that he should resign as head of the ruling Cameroon National Union which he retained when he stepped down after 22 years as President late last year.

Mr Biya announced earlier this week that he had smashed a plot to overthrow him.

Mr Ahidjo denied accusations by Cameroonian exiles in France that he had stolen a \$2,500m (£1,600m) of state funds during his time in power and that he was planning to use it to recapture power.

Bonn alarm at 'Times' view on Rhine army

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

The debate on the Rhine Army started by *The Times* is being followed closely in Bonn by politicians and military leaders who have expressed alarm at the idea of Britain's handing over responsibility for the defence of West Germany's eastern frontier to a German unit.

The conservative newspaper, *Die Welt*, echoing the views of senior officials in Chancellor Kohl's Government, said that the leading article published in *The Times* on August 17 could have "fatal consequences" if the British Government were to follow up such proposals.

The Times believed that would want to follow Britain's lead in leaving the defence of forward positions in Germany to the Bundeswehr. The relevant authorities in Bonn are said to know very well that government circles in Brussels

and The Hague were just waiting for moves in this direction which they could follow. Such a development would be viewed with alarm here.

Die Welt said that the suggestions for a reduced Rhine Army ran into considerable scepticism here. What *The Times* considered as tactical rigidity was, for German politicians and military, the kernel of Nato's aims - ensuring that without widespread operations on the territory of the Warsaw Pact countries, possible attack from the East were stopped as close as possible to the inner-German frontier. This was possible with the forces as they now existed.

The Germans have also been hurt by suggestions that they play the role of only a junior partner in Nato.



Two die in Berlin consulate blast

All that remained of the *Maison de France* on West Berlin's fashionable Kurfürstendamm yesterday after an explosion that killed two people and injured 23. The building housed the French Consulate as well as a cinema which was empty at the time.

An anonymous telephone caller to

Agence France-Presse said the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (Asala) was responsible.

West Berlin police said the two men who died and 17 of those hurt were Germans. Two French citizens were among the injured.

The blast was the first reported

instance of Asala terrorist activity in West Germany. The group had given a warning that it would strike at French interests if France did not release the Armenians arrested after a bomb attack at Orly airport in Paris last month that killed eight people and injured 55.

The Namibia equation

From Richard Dowden, Luanda

The head of military intelligence in the region, said on Wednesday that the attack on Cangamba had been made to coincide with Señor de Cuellar's visit "so that the South Africans can present Unia as part of the Namibia equation".

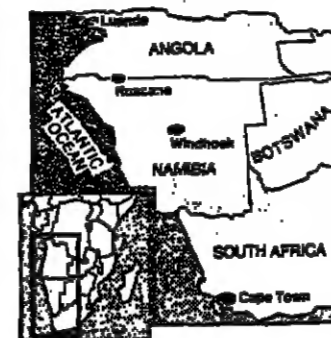
The South Africans are demanding the withdrawal of

from the Soviet Union and other communist countries. JOHANNESBURG: Señor de Cuellar, saw for himself yesterday why the lights burn dimly in South-West Africa (Ray Kennedy writes). He was escorted over the massive hydro-electric power station at Ruacana, on the border with Angola, which was designed to light up the whole of the territory and a large part of southern Angola.

The Angolan Government refuses to open sluices on the Cunene river further upstream which means that the power station can operate only at limited capacity. The transmission lines, also, are frequent targets for sabotage by Swapo guerrillas infiltrating from bases in southern Angola.

The Secretary-General, who arrived in Windhoek, the capital of South West Africa yesterday spoke of his personal satisfaction at being able "to familiarize myself with the situation in this country".

He spent the rest of the day getting acquainted with the complex internal political situation of a country with barely one million people but several dozen political parties. Mr Andreas Shipanga, former senior political official in the Swapo hierarchy and now leader of the rival Swapo-Democrats based in Windhoek, was the first to meet Señor Cuellar.



Cuban troops from Angola - said to number about 20,000 - as part of an agreement with Namibian independence, but the Angolan Government appears to be standing firm on this.

At a speech to the country on Tuesday, President Eduardo dos Santos put the attacks from South Africa in an East-West context, accusing the United States of backing South Africa. Some diplomatic sources here have interpreted this as a plea for more support for Angola

Swiss turn palace in fortress

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Some of the more cautious international civil servants among the 2,500 at the UN Palais des Nations complex have thought it advisable to buy individual "all events" insurance cover for the duration of the international conference on Palestine being held there from Monday until September 7. Others are conveniently going on holiday.

Those remaining at their desks in the 14-storey conference building have protested at some emergency staircases being closed for security reasons.

Apprehension has become apparent at the spectacle of the UN complex, which has a perimeter of about two and a half miles, being converted by the Swiss Army into a fortress surrounded by barbed wire and barriers, adjoining roads being closed or restricted and nearby schools closed until the second week of September.

A no-go area between the barriers is surveyed by soldiers in camouflage uniforms, with orders to shoot at any intruder disregarding a single command to halt. The two UN buildings are guarded by an augmented force of UN security men, both uniformed and plain clothes all linked by radio.

The other main focus of security is the airport. About a dozen crossing points along the French frontier are closed, with the military patrolling all along its length.

Security precautions are officially described as the most extensive Geneva has ever seen, with 2,000 soldiers from two tank battalions, an artillery company, plus 600 police, half of them detached from other cantons - leaving as many Geneva police again for normal duties.

Salvador military shoot Italian at roadblock

San Salvador (Reuters) -

Salvadoran soldiers shot and killed an Italian engineer when he apparently tried to break through an army road block.

Military officials and spokesman for CEL, the state-owned electricity company, said Signor Vittorio Andreotti, aged 33, was killed and another person injured at the road block on the Quebrada Seca bridge, 50 miles east of the capital.

Colonel Francisco Antonio Moran, CEL's president, said that Signor Andreotti, who worked for a company called Cogefar with a dozen Swiss and Italian engineers on a hydroelectric plant in San Vicente province, had left the dam site around midnight on Tuesday.

Soldiers opened fire when Signor Andreotti refused to heed their instructions to halt, Colonel Moran said, adding that Cogefar, contracted by the El Salvador Government to build the plant did not blame the soldiers. An Italian embassy spokesman refused to comment.

The dam is financed by the World Bank and will open next month.

Meanwhile El Salvador's Roman Catholic bishops have accused the country's legislators of passing a new constitution without proper evaluation of its provisions and at a time of "no real freedom" for conscientious action.

The charge came in a statement by the episcopal conference that said the Constituent Assembly was following party lines in passing the draft constitution.

GUATEMALA: President Mejia Victores of Guatemala said in his first news conference since taking power two weeks ago that he would retain a new tax imposed by his predecessor (Reuters reports).

The move surprised some diplomats, who had regarded the new tax-added tax as one of the main reasons for the coup.

Since the Federal Electoral Commission declared President Shagari, candidate of the ruling National Party of Nigeria, winner of the August 6 presidential poll with more than 12 million votes, some four million ahead of the runner-up, his opponents of the other five parties have alleged ballot-rigging and other electoral malpractices.

From ballot box to court in Nigeria

Israel cements trade and aid ties with Liberia

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The state visit to Israel by General Samuel Doe, the Liberian leader, ends today after expressions of satisfaction on both sides over the signing of an agreement which would involve the rapid dispatch of Israeli experts to Monrovia.

According to the pact, the Israeli assistance in the first instance will be limited to agriculture, shipping, road building and the reorganization of Liberia's national airline. Details of military aid and intelligence cooperation have not been made public.

In diplomatic circles, it is considered that Israel has done as much as possible in its present dire economic circum-

stances to repay General Doe for becoming the first African head of state to visit Jerusalem since 26 African countries broke ties in 1973.

Officials here are optimistic that the aid package and the cordiality extended to the large Liberian party will encourage other African states to renew relations. Talks about a resumption of ties with the Central African Republic took place recently.

General Doe - who cancelled a press conference yesterday because of "fatigue" - has been accompanied by confirming that Liberia will become the third country to site its embassy in Jerusalem rather than Tel Aviv.

Seven killed in Kenya plane crash

Nairobi (AP) Seven people - four West Germans, two Italians and a Dutch national - were killed when their small aircraft crashed in the Ingilo Hills near the Tanzanian border, about 85 miles south of here.

The accident occurred on Monday but only fragmented reports had been received until yesterday. There were no survivors.

The Italians were identified as Signor Maurizio Mauro, aged 50, the pilot and owner, and his 15-year-old son, Riccardo. The four West Germans were stewardesses of the charter airline, Condor, a subsidiary of Lufthansa. The Dutch national was the husband of one of the stewardesses.

Rain caused school tragedy

Taipei (Reuters) - A provisional education commissioner has offered to resign after 27 girls were killed and 84 injured when a school ceiling collapsed at Feng Yuan near here.

An inquiry has been ordered into the accident, apparently caused by water accumulation on the roof after days of heavy rain.

Baby expelled

Rome (AFP) - Italy has expelled a two-month-old Venezuelan girl who spent seven days in a Rome airport transit lounge after a legal tangle over her adoption. She was put on board a flight for Caracas, accompanied by a childless Sicilian couple who had brought her to Rome last week.

Bride's suicide

Delhi (AFP) - A teenage bride burnt herself to death, saying that her in-laws had refused her food as part of pressure tactics to force her husband to force her dowry. It was the latest in a long series of "dowry deaths".

Hijack appeal

Seoul (Reuters) - South Korean prosecutors are appealing for heavier sentences on six Chinese given six years for hijacking a Chinese airliner to Seoul in May. China has said the sentences are too lenient.

Colombo visitor

Colombo - Mr Gopalaswami Parthasarathy, the Indian special envoy, arrived in Sri Lanka yesterday for discussions with President Jayewardene after the recent attacks on Tamils.

Burma riot

Rangoon (AP) - Muslims' houses, shops and mosques were destroyed in Yandooon, 50 miles east of the Burmese capital, after a quarrel between a Muslim medicine vendor and his Buddhist customers.

Hit reprieved

Pretoria (AFP) - A ten-year ban on the film and soundtrack of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*, has been lifted by the South African censors.

Train deaths

Bangkok (AFP) - Eight people were killed and nine seriously injured in a train crash near Chumphon, 275 miles south of here.

Factory blast

Rome (AFP) - An explosion destroyed a fireworks factory in Borgorose, 60 miles north of here, killing five people. A sixth person was reported missing.

China in space

Peking (Reuters) - An experimental Chinese satellite has returned to Earth after a successful five-day mission.

Leg appeal

Peking (Reuters) - A Chinese hosiery factory is marketing scented stockings. "In addition to being transparent, soft and elastic, they have a fragrance which will last through at least 10 washings," according to the *Peking Daily*.

From W. P. Reeves
Wellington

From John Bear, Ottawa

He was in Ottawa for a few days on business, enjoying the break from summer holidays in his constituency, where feelings

In line with that, a senior adviser to Mr. Trudeau was later quoted as saying the Prime Minister will probably announce his resignation by Christmas. In fact, he may no longer have much choice.

Newspapers gave prominence to a report by the PAP news agency that a call for a work slow-down at the Lenin shipyards in Gdansk, the birthplace of Solidarity, had failed.



Eyewitnesses said the crowds following the coffin from the Aquino family home to Santo Domingo church about a mile away were almost double the police estimate of 60,000.

The Philippines' police chief, Major-General Fidel Ramos, said yesterday contingency plans had been drawn up against possible disturbances when large numbers of people arrived in Manila for the funeral, tentatively scheduled for Wednesday.

According to Mr Gould the strife he caused made him a hot potato. At the same time the company of which he was managing director got into "tremendous financial difficulties" and he resigned.

In a brief news conference in front of his suburban home Señor Kelly refused to say how he escaped. His face bruised



Since then he has launched several political crusades against powerful Argentine political leaders which have landed him in jail on seven occasions. In 1957 he made a spectacular escape from prison disguised as a woman.

One of the Romanians is reported to have said he wanted to go to the United States.

● **BAD BRAMSTEDT:** Two East German workers fled across the border into northern West Germany yesterday (AP reports). West German border guards said the two men, aged 21 and 25, reached Schleswig-Holstein unharmed.

Captain Sankara, who was Prime Minister under Major Ouedraogo before being dismissed earlier this year, holds the offices of head of state and Minister of the Interior and Security.

Security and Civil Services: Fidele Tondrebo; Higher Education and Scientific Research: Issa Tondrebo; Education, Arts and Culture: Emmanuel Tondrebo; Information: Adams Touré; Youth and Sports: Ibrahim Kone; Environment and Tourism: Laly Bessie Gasson; Social Affairs: Bernadette Paley; Secretary of State for Interior

A large, bold, textured graphic of the number 48.5%. The numbers are filled with a dense, grainy pattern, giving them a three-dimensional, metallic appearance. The percentage sign is also rendered in the same style. The background is dark and textured, with some faint, illegible text visible in the upper right corner.

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SPECTRUM

20 years after Martin Luther King's stirring speech, American blacks are still fighting for equality. Reaganomics means hard times for many and the black protest is growing, writes Trevor Fishlock

Dreaming that dream

New York

The words echoed over Washington, and America beyond, sounding the end of one age and the beginning of another.

"I have a dream..." It was August 28, 1963. Martin Luther King stood under the Lincoln Memorial and cried out in impassioned oratory to the quarter of a million people who had gathered on the capital.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character." Two weeks later whites bombed a black church in Alabama and killed four little children. There was to be more bloodshed and cruelty as Americans bent themselves to the unfinished business of the Civil War.

There followed the frenzied last stand of white supremacists, black fury and burning cities, and the murder of Martin Luther King himself five years after the declaration of his dream.

And in time the moderate civil rights movement, in which blacks linked hands with whites to sing "We Shall Overcome", began to wither as disillusioned blacks concluded it was better to put an angry chin than offer a conciliatory cheek.

Dr King's oration at the Lincoln Memorial marked the peak of a movement acceptable to liberals for its nobility of purpose. But it also foretold that "whirlwinds of revolt" would go on shaking the United States - and they did. So while the speech was inspiring, it was also a sombre warning.

White liberals in the civil rights crusade found, like negroes, that slaying diabolical southern dragons was not enough, that there were no easy solutions. They were perplexed and frightened by the bitterness of black revolt.

And blacks exposed the painful truth that racism was not just southern: it was American. Prejudice and hypocrisy flourished in the North, too.

The black grievance slid from stage centre as Vietnam dominated national consciousness in the 1970s. Today it is returning to prominence. Blacks know that much of Martin Luther King's dream remains a long way from realization, and they are growing restless for a fuller economic share.

The campaign of the 1960s wrought profound changes. The civil rights and voting rights acts were notable advances, bought with blood and suffering. The South today is astonished by what has been accomplished in the 20 years since Dr King said he dreamed that the children of slaves and slave owners would sit together.

But blacks see that far from being the end of the struggle the 1960s movement was an episode. It brought the deep South, at last, into the late twentieth century and properly into the United States, but its achievements were deceptive.

Blacks note with dismay that they are still far behind, hobbled by intractable difficulties, inequalities and discrimination. In a study two years ago, black academics decided "it is difficult to be optimistic about the future of blacks in American society".

The depth of frustration was illustrated recently by Leanta McClain, a journalist on the *Chicago Tribune*, in a raging article that seemed empty of hope, under the headline "How Chicago Taught Me to Hate Whites". She described as a race war the election this summer in which Harold Washington became the city's first black mayor.

The article said: "(On the radio it was) the blacks this, the blacks that, the blacks, the blacks... the words held out like a foul-smelling sock transported at the end of an arm."

"So many whites had never considered that blacks could do much. My white colleagues realized, perhaps for the first time, that I was one of 'them'. I was suddenly threatening. I have been unprepared for the silence with which colleagues greeted Washington's nomination."

"Solving racial problems will take more than living and going to school together and all those laudable and naive goals I defend. This affair has robbed me of my innate black hope of true integration. No white will be trusted again by the innermost me."

Bishop H. N. Brooks, a leading Los Angeles churchman, said to me: "After all these years white Americans do not really know us, do not know how diverse we are. I feel frustrated that we have not come far enough, have not been able to make white Americans understand our desire to be part of the whole."

"There is still resistance to black progress. White conservatives play on fears that black advance is at white expense. Racial division is the number one problem. The job market is still segregated and the black man finds himself running to remain in the same place."

Many of America's 27 million blacks are economically mired, lacking bootstraps to pull on. Twenty years ago blacks earned, on average, 55 per cent as much as whites. They still do. But a better measure of economic standing is wealth, and average black wealth is only 36 per cent that of white. More blacks are below the poverty line than at the end of the 1960s.

Unemployment is twice as high among blacks as among whites. Only 55 per cent of black men are working, compared with 74 per cent 20 years ago. Blacks feel bitter because they have suffered severely under President Reagan's economic regime. There is a welfare safety net, but the poor have been hurt by cuts in government spending, and for many blacks Reaganomics spells discrimination and hard times.

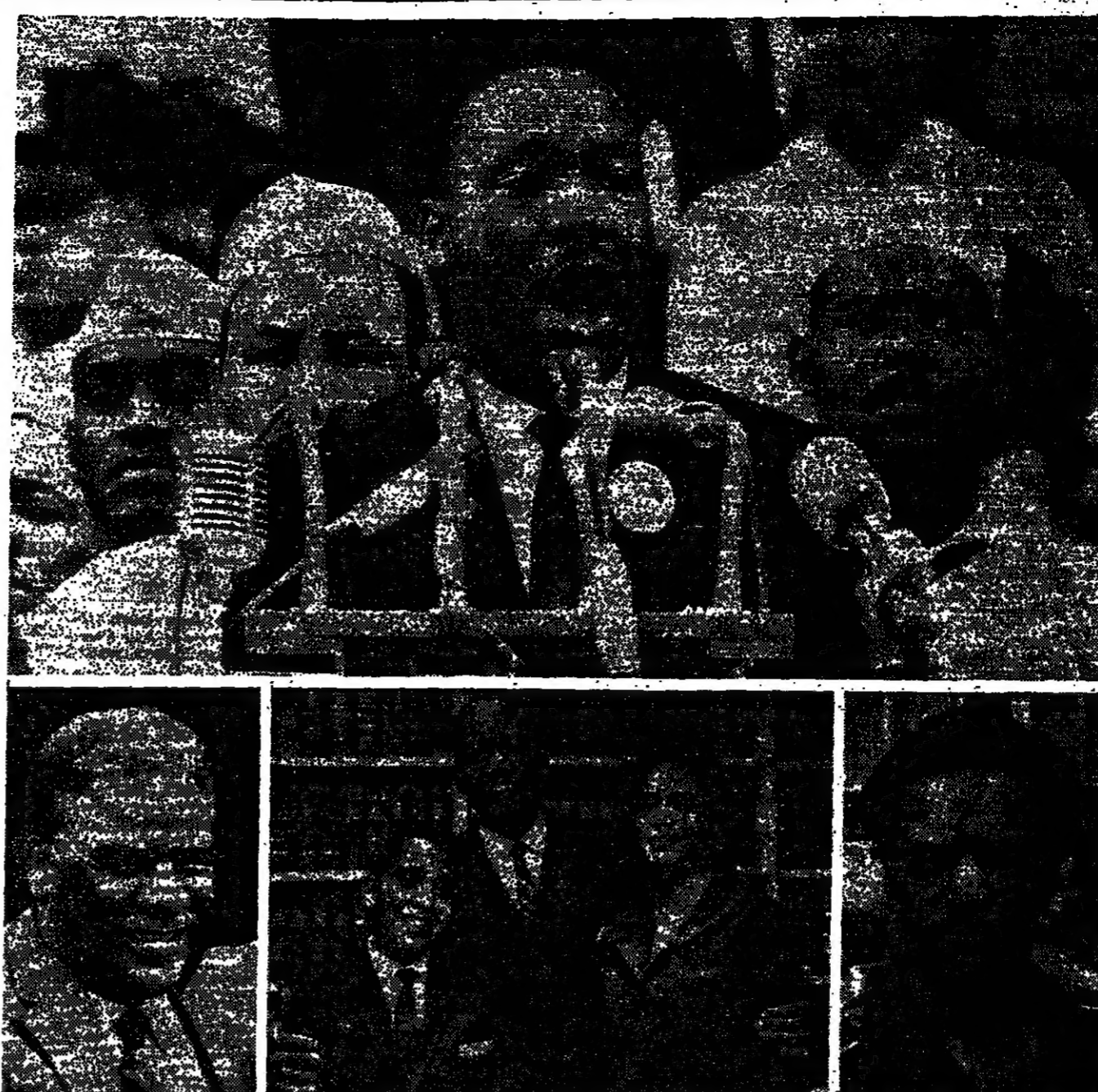
Life is harder for blacks. They have a shorter lifespan than whites, higher rates of infant mortality, divorce, separation and mental illness. Almost half of black 17-year-olds are illiterate. Bigotry and fear help to push the scales in their disfavour. Unions still make it difficult for them to get some jobs. There are few blacks in boardrooms and managers' chairs. Blacks are prominent in many sports, but few get into management.

The United States Commission on Civil Rights recently criticized the Reagan Administration for failing to set a good anti-discrimination example, citing a decline in the appointment of blacks and women.

"The resistance to social equity is fierce", a recent study by the Joint Centre for Political Studies, a black think tank, said. "There is a continuing climate of racism."

Among all the difficulties blacks encounter - unemployment, ghetto life, illiteracy, the results of industrial decline, the failure of billions of dollars to pull them from the bottom - perhaps the most disturbing is the corrosion of black family life.

This is a sensitive subject blacks have, until recently, preferred to keep to themselves. Until the mid-1960s three-quarters of black families were headed by two parents. Today half the families are fatherless. While the



"I have a dream": Martin Luther King (top) at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963, and below, three of the men continuing the fight, from left Washington, Johnson and Jackson

overall black birthrate has fallen, the birthrate among single women has tripled in 20 years. Black leaders talk of an epidemic of births outside wedlock and are concerned at the decline in family and community responsibility, the damage to a traditionally family-oriented people.

Blacks see their tormented history and economic and social circumstances as contributors to this rot. They think the government should help with programmes to rebuild family life, but do not believe it is primarily a government problem. Rather, they think the black community and institutions must do more.

Harold Washington, Chicago's mayor, says: "We were slow to move from the protest movement into politics, lulled into thinking that passing a few laws was enough." Law, however, does change minds by creating a framework of behaviour, and the laws of the 1960s helped make America, and especially the 11 southern states where 53 per cent of blacks live, more racially tolerant, with tensions easing along with the dismantling of apartheid.

"Yes, we've come a long way", Leroy Johnson said. He was Georgia's first black state senator 20 years ago. Drinking fountains, lavatories and cafés were segregated in the state assembly, and in his first session, only four of 52 senators spoke to him.

"All that's finished. The old open prejudice has gone, but it has moved into boardrooms and is more subtle." The struggle of the 1960s led to fuller black participation in politics. Twelve years ago there were fewer than 2,000 black elected officials in America. Now there are more than 5,000.

In the mayor's office in Atlanta, premier city of the South, Andrew Young, former American Ambassador to the UN and once an aide to Martin Luther King, said it was important to remember how things were.

"When I was a student, on my way home from college, I was afraid to stop in this city. Now I'm its second black mayor."

"Much of Martin's dream has been achieved, the social inequalities he fought have gone. We don't have to march against brutal sheriffs any more. The police force in Atlanta, for example, is 48 per cent black. But there is still oppression and discrimination. We haven't been able to find ways of changing things rapidly enough."

In Washington, that August day,

Martin Luther King also said: "I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice."

Whatever was happening in the rest of the United States, it was worse in Mississippi, poorest state in the union, where racism was brutal, embedded, legitimized.

Mississippians, black and white, look with wonder on the change from the days when soldiers had to make the state's demagogic leaders obey the law and desegregate. Charles Overby, executive editor of the *Clarion-Ledger* in Jackson, the state capital, said: "I remember the day the first gubernatorial candidate shook hands publicly with a black man, knowing it would cost him votes."

"It used to be fashionable to be racist, part of the way of life. There was a great fear of the unknown in desegregation. But once the barrier was broken, people saw something good was happening. Everything here used to revolve around race. No longer. Mississippi held out to the last, now it is a model in race relationships."

Although race relations in Mississippi have improved, there is still prejudice. Whites fled the schools on desegregation, setting up private white academies. Some have failed because of poor teaching standards, some have run out of money. But white churches are supporting some of the white academies. The tradition of separate worship is still strong in the South. Black churches and white churches meet particular needs in their communities and have different styles of worship.

Gerrymandering and other manipulations have kept thousands of Mississippi blacks disfranchised or unable to get elected in black majority areas. Blacks are campaigning to end abuses, and to persuade people to register on the voters' lists - and to vote.

The effort is being led by the charismatic Jesse Jackson, a disciple of Martin Luther King, who has been roaming the South tirelessly, telling the crowds gathered in churches, cotton fields and under the shade of pecan trees: "There's a freedom train a-comin'. But you've got to register to ride."

He tells them: "Reagan won Alabama by 17,000 votes, but there were 272,000 unregistered blacks. He won Arkansas by 5,000 votes, with 85,000

unregistered blacks..." He seeks to politicize and revitalize people who do not see voting as whites do, whose history of weariness and caution has deprived them of the community sense essential to the process of voting.

"I'm a catalyst," Jesse Jackson told me. "Inspiring participation in democracy. God is using me as a magnet to draw and inform people."

During the 1970s many blacks became convinced that managerial and corporate liberalism had been exposed as ineffectual. They also looked to the Carter Administration to make improvements. It was disappointing. These failures, the recession and the squeeze of Reaganomics, accelerated the emergence of Jesse Jackson, a more militant man than Martin Luther King.

"We've won freedom," he said. "But not equality."

His emphasis is on demands for an economic and political share of what white Americans have - "A share, not welfare" - and his activist organization, PUSH, confronts corporations, asking for better jobs deals.

Blacks are proud to have several big-city mayors among 5,000 elected black officials across the country. But 5,000 is only just over one per cent of the total, while blacks are nearly 12 per cent of the population. There are no black senators.

Typically, a black elected official is a well-educated, middle-aged, middle-class Democrat, voted in primarily by blacks. This profile demonstrates the difficulties blacks face in meeting America on equal terms. The middle class is the spring of political change, but the black middle class is very small and educational standards desperately need improvement. During the 1960s it was white civil rights workers who stiffened the ranks of the black middle class.

One of the key arenas for black assertion is in the Democratic Party, which blacks traditionally support. It is here that white intentions and liberal attitudes will be tested, perhaps painfully, for blacks are increasingly insistent that civil rights by themselves are not enough, that they must have political muscle and an economic payoff.

Twenty years ago Martin Luther King spoke at a time of struggle when hopes were running high. Today many blacks feel those hopes have been betrayed. The struggle is being renewed, and spirits are rising again. But the road looks harder.

moreover... Miles Kington

Fringe benefits, and worse

"I think you'll find our production of *Othello* is rather different. We only have four performers: Othello, Desdemona, and two Iagos. One of the Iagos is a man, the other is a woman. Oh, and Othello is white."

"I'm from New Zealand and I'm doing a one-man show based on Highland music. I happen to think that the Scots have lost sight of the history and meaning of their own music, and I've come over here to try and put them right."

"There are four deaf people in our production of Goldoni's play, and the whole thing is done with speaking and sign language simultaneously."

"We're both 18 and we've formed our own dance company called *Moove Dancers*. There are only the two of us in it. We must be mad."

"I think they must all be mad. I think I must be mad. This is the opening ceremony of the Edinburgh Fringe, the one chance the groups get to come face to face with the media, or at least administrators. SMichael Dale puts it, the time when the groups try to meet the press and the press tries to avoid the groups. There are hundreds of groups and they've all got a member here, handing out leaflets and doing a fast spiel about their show."

"Hi, we're the Hip Pocket Theatre from Fort Worth and we are the first Texan group ever to come to the festival, there are 45 of us doing three Texan plays and the *Fort Worth Star Telegram* has sent a reviewer all the way here just to review us. He flew home again afterwards."

"Hello, we're the Omelette Broadcasting Company and we are the only improvising comedy group on the fringe, we ask the audience for ideas at the start and then we improvise on them."

"I'm Richard Festerstein and I'm in an Athol Fugard play about a South African brother and sister. I play the brother, and the sister is played by my mother. We got a rave review in *The Scotsman* last year, right at the end, so we've come back again."

"We're doing *Ben Hur* at the Wireworks Theatre. Yes, we're doing the chariot race."

"We're the only group on the fringe doing eighteenth century music on authentic instruments."

"I have an exhibition of patchwork quilts at 4 Manor Place."

"Why are all these people telling me these things? Because only one member of each group is allowed in and one member of our group (Instant Sunshine, advt.) has already got in, so I am masquerading as a journalist. *The Times*, says my lapel badge. It was a bad mistake. All these people are now telling me this."

"*Death in Custody* is a play about solitary confinement. The set design is by Hugh Collins, who is serving a life sentence in Brixton Prison, but he is being allowed over for the day on Thursday to see the play. Yes, I think he will have to be accompanied."

"Hello, we're doing *Samson Agonistes* by Milton and Peter Dyer is playing all six parts, he's brilliant."

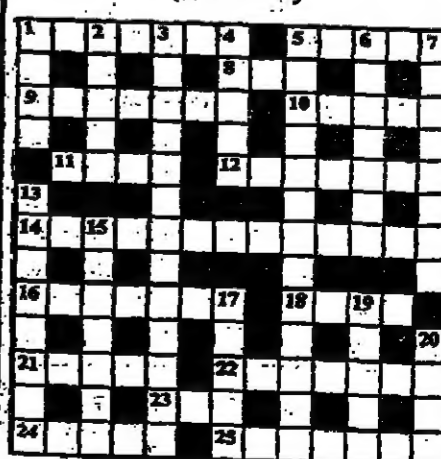
"Hello, we're doing a dramatization of stories written about Harry Lime by Orson Welles, yes, he wrote a whole book of them in 1953, nobody seems to have heard of them, published by the *News of the World*, funny enough, it's very good."

"Hello, we're doing a play called *Wolf Redempted*, it's a cross between *Red Riding Hood* and *Crime and Punishment*, oh and it's by an Iranian playwright and it's fantastic."

"Hello, I'm putting on *No Exit* by Sartre. There are no gimmicks. It's just a play and we're doing it straight. It's at the Edinburgh College of Art. No, no gimmicks at all. Sorry."

"It sounds great. This is the one I'll go and see. Something normal. Now, I start telling people about my group. I point to my lapel badge and say: 'I'm in a group called *The Times*, basically it's formed from ex-officials of *The Times*, yes, William Rees-Mogg, Harry Evans etc, and we're putting on a fast-moving musical about the rise of Rupert Murdoch, it's in Japanese and... it's so good. You can't make up anything as fantastic as the things already on the fringe."

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 134)



- ACROSS: 1 Indications (7), 2 Abandon (5), 3 Twitch (3), 4 Chase (7), 5 High clouds (5), 6 Only remaining (4), 7 Few lottery (7), 8 Free to decide (13), 9 Left out (7), 10 Opposed to (4), 11 Unseen fire (5), 12 Beckley (7), 13 Zealand parrot (5), 14 Push slowly (7), 15 Widespread (7), 16 Bitch (11), 17 Inch 12 Idanger (9), 18 Sarcot 17 Klondike 20 Pin 22 Quarry 23 Chippy 24 Ape 25 Lycium 26 Reformer 27 Down 28 Otha 30 Ditcher 4 Ocity 5 Scene 6 Dull 7 Shide 14 Unclucky 15 Spencer 16 Captive 18 Newcomer 19 Kama 21 Tepee (Solution to No 134 on Saturday. See August Bank Holiday Junior Comics Edition for answer to No 134 on Saturday.)
- DOWN: 1 Sprites (4), 2 Deep skin layer (5), 3 Riposte (13), 4 Swagman (5), 5 Adaptation (13), 6 Covered walk (7), 7 Outer spalls (8), 8 Beneficial right (8), 9 Guzzled (7), 10 Remove trousers (5), 11 Acceptor (5), 12 Touch (4)

Abortion: Ireland divided once more

are being asked in confession which way they will vote.

The Church hierarchy appears aware of the dangers as well as the enormous changes that have taken place in Irish society and, while urging a majority for the amendment, has made clear that those opposed to it are not necessarily pro-abortion and that everyone has the right to vote according to conscience.

The proposed amendment has divided the Republic's churches, medical and legal professions, political parties, families, and even the country's largest farming organization. It has done untold damage to the liberal credentials of Dr Garret FitzGerald. And though the media have devoted much space and air-time to the arguments for and against, spilling out an unprecedented amount of information on gynaecological problems and family planning methods, doorstep ignorance on the issue is astonishing.

The amendment declares: "the state acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and with due regard to the equal rights to life of the mother guarantees in its law to respect and, as far as practicable, by

its laws to vindicate and defend that right." But the content of the amendment is rarely mentioned. On the doorstep and campaign trail the issue is simplistic and emotive: for or against abortion.

Men show little or no interest, regarding the issue as "women's business", and some seem unable to understand the mechanics of voting in a referendum rather than in general and local elections.

Still more are impressed by a doctor's name appearing on the anti-amendment leaflet and on the words "if it's good enough for him it's good enough for me" are commonly heard. Among the middle classes, anti-clerical strains are apparent, with people objecting to the Roman Catholic clergy interfering as well as the placing in shops of pro-life leaflets urging people to vote Yes.

Inevitably for some, it is a chance to knock Britain, portrayed as a Sodomy and Gomorrah. Some say that by passing the amendment Irish culture will be saved from complete Americanization. Never mind that many supporters of the amendment then watch the BBC and Dallas, and that 3,500 Irish women travel to England each year

for abortions. One woman said: "It will be a message to the world that Ireland does not want abortion and has some standards."

The issue has divided the nation but also created surprising alliances, bringing people of different creeds together to join the campaign against the amendment.

The 30-strong anti-amendment group in Carlow, comprising 24 Roman Catholics and six Protestants, is entirely middle-class - a matter they regret - but alongside the married men and women are young bachelors from both denominations who are out afternoon and night canvassing. For some it has been a risk to their professional and business interests to be seen in a rural area opposing the amendment. One young estate agent has already had a house withdrawn from his firm because of his stance.

Motives for joining the anti-amendment group are mixed. The issue has widened from a debate about a pro-life amendment to a discussion about the future of Ireland and the prospects for unity between north and south. Some are alarmed that the amendment could be the forerunner of attempts to make the family planning laws

more restrictive. Others see it as a step back to the 1950s. Mary McDermott, aged 37, a Roman Catholic doctor's wife, had never been involved in any political work or campaign until, she says, "I became so angry at this dreadful red herring being brought forward when Ireland has so many other problems."

She ignored the warning of her father that if she put up a Vote No poster, "a brick would be through the window within minutes" and can now laugh at the abuse she has received on the doorstep. Amendment proponents have lectured her about sex, admonishing that if there would be no need for abortion. Mrs McDermott knows the danger of being labelled an "abortionist" in a rural community, but says: "By standing up I gave other people courage. It helps being in a crowd as it makes up for all the mud-slinging that is going on."

She is alarmed that if the amendment is passed operations for ectopic pregnancies and cancer of the womb may be more difficult and that certain forms of contraceptive, the IUD and morning after pill, will no longer be available. She

said: "I see it as my duty to explain all this to women for their sake, their children and their grandchildren."

As the group meets to plan its evening's canvass, two Protestant brothers who joined because they saw the proposed amendment as a regression, an attempt to halt the liberalization of the last few years, admit that such a group would have been "unthinkable" 20 years ago. Said one: "Its existence shows a social change that has taken place and the number of Protestants involved is evidence that we are no longer prepared to sit back and opt for a quiet life. That happened too much in the past."

Many in the anti-amendment campaign privately believe they will lose the vote, pointing to the influence the clergy could have on the faithful on the last Sunday before polling. Others believe that they may lose the battle, but win the war.

The clamour for divorce, legalization of homosexuality and less-restrictive family planning laws will continue, as will influences from both east and west on the Emerald Isle. As one leading anti-amendment campaigner put it: "We'll let the Roman Catholic Church have the abortion issue, but all the youngsters will get the contraceptive."

Richard Ford

W.N.E. Half-yr Pretax Turnover Net Int

Supra Half-yr Pretax Turnover Net Int Share

Ingers Year to Pretax Net div

Spears Year to Pretax Net div

Resour Year to Pretax Net div

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MEDICAL BRIEFING

Pigeon peril for heart patient

Mr Keith Castle (above), the heart transplant patient, is home again after a 10-week stay in Papworth Hospital where he is being treated for cryptococcal pneumonia, a very rare and potentially deadly fungal disease borne by pigeons.

Until June this year Mr Castle had not given much thought to pigeons. However, as he has enormous energy he decided recently to repair his roof. Pigeons were getting through the tiles and their droppings were mixing with the dust of ages on the floor of the roof space. It must have been this dust, breathed in by Mr Castle, which contained the lethal fungus *Cryptococcus neoformans*.

He was aware of the infection only because of a fortunate chest X-ray, for the fungus does not give rise to symptoms and serious trouble until it has spread from the lungs. In his case the disease, diagnosed while still confined to the lungs, has been treated with the powerful antifungal agent Amphotericin B, which he has had intravenously for four hours every other day. He has now completed two-thirds of the course; for the last third he will be an out-patient. His many well-wishers will be glad to know that the infection is receding.

Pigeons can also carry another form of pneumonia, ornithosis, caused by *Chlamydia psittaci*. Although rather less rare than cryptococcosis, it is however much more easily treated with a prolonged course of heavy doses of oral tetracycline. People whose association with pigeons does not go beyond throwing them the occasional stale crust are unlikely to be affected.

Needless dread

People will notice, but be too kind to draw attention to, the urgency with which the middle-aged man rushes to the lavatory. Surgeons are concerned that this conspiracy of politeness has given rise to a quite unnecessary dread which delays patients from having a necessary, statistically very safe, and quick operation. With a good surgeon, and if all goes well, a man may have a transurethral resection, the internal operation without any external wound, and be back at work within a fortnight.

Although in most men with prostatic symptoms the enlargement can be classified as benign, in some the tissue has turned malignant. There is good news for these patients. Two studies published in *The Lancet* of a new ICI product suggest that soon treatment may be possible without a man having to tolerate mutilating surgery, or the side effects of huge, castrating doses of female hormones.

Partnership problems

Scientists writing in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* have evaluated the effect of a wife's personality and education on the chance of her husband developing heart disease. Data gleaned from 269 marriages followed over 10 years show that if striving ambitious men marry women who have had further education their chance of heart disease is increased by 2.5 times; if the wife works outside the home by 3.5 times. The danger can be minimized if the man chooses a woman with a similar personality to his own; married to an easy-going woman he will fare particularly badly.

New antidepressant

The diagnosis and treatment of depression has featured in the independent columns of *The Times* this week, while a small news item drew attention to a new antidepressant, bupropion, trade name Wellbutrin, which, it is claimed, can be effective in treating people who have failed to respond to other antidepressants.

Papers on its use were enthusiastically received at the World Congress in Vienna, and reports in *The Clinical Journal of Psychiatry* were encouraging, but while the American FDA shows every sign of approval, rumours of doubts from the British Committee for Safety of Medicines have been heard. Bupropion, therefore, may join a long list of preparations which are available only on one side of the Atlantic.

Dr Thomas Stuttford

Correction

In Madhur Jaffrey's cookery article on Wednesday, the recipe for carrots with raisins and dates should have read: "Five medium-sized carrots and 1 medium-sized onion, peeled."

It's just more bigger over there

The US came top of the list in a survey of children's holiday choices published this week. Alan Franks reports

If you have children between the ages of eight and 12, there is a strong likelihood that at least one of them is, where holidays are concerned, a nomadic, ice cream-loving, snail-hating aeronaut. Almost certainly, he or she is a thwarted Americanophile.

This much, and plenty more, emerges from a survey just released by MORI (Market and Opinion Research International). It was conducted for Thomas Cook, the travel agents, who were aware, like many parents, that the pre-adolescent sector has become, if not the seat of important summer decision-making, then at least a potent pressure group.

After all holidays, like houses and cars, are major items of family expenditure, and even if it is the parent who signs the cheque, it is no less the children who must live with the commitment. They derive much of their fascination from the fact that, again like houses and cars, they occupy the common ground between the two worlds of adults and children.

To influence the family's location for a fortnight, therefore, is to touch the levers of power.

MORI plumped for this age sector because, as director Tim Burns agrees, children younger than eight are hard to communicate with on abstract or hypotheticals. They occupy their own fantasy worlds so vividly that the matter of a holiday's physical placement is not of primary importance. Once over 13, of course, they begin to think in terms of adult behaviour and we have only ourselves to blame for the results of their apings.

MORI began with three groups of children, each consisting of six members. The first comprised girls of nine from working class families; the second middle class girls of 12; and the third boys of 10 and 11 from a mixture of family backgrounds. From these preliminary interviews was evolved a 12-part questionnaire in which 509 children took part during half-term holidays at the beginning of June. They were drawn from a broad cross-section of age (within the four-year span), social class, and region.

According to Burns, the process was a surprisingly educative one for parents as well as for Cooks. Under the code of conduct laid down by the Market Research Society, an adult must always be present at an interview with a child, and one of



the most popular parental misconceptions to be lanced during these sessions was that children have a sort of holiday homing instinct - a desire to return to the same place year after year.

In fact only 32 per cent wanted to go back, with 64 per cent favouring fresh pastures and 4 per cent undecided.

Of those fresh pastures, North America is clearly the most popular, favoured by half those interviewed with Europe in second place on a 34 per cent vote. Britain claims only 8 per cent, level with Australia and New Zealand.

Sadly, these figures are a world away from reality, since just 1 per cent of the children made it to the States last year, 16 per cent to Europe, none to the Antipodes - but 78 per cent to Britain. The transatlantic lure is best summarized by this quote from an eight-year-old girl: "America's more bigger than all the other countries. The best bit about America is Disneyland. It's got three countries in America, it's got Washington DC, New York and Sidney."

Not that the badly under-served Australia is without its romance, if you heed this 10-year-old blarney: "I'd go to Australia, probably with a girl or something like that."

Burns says that, while he, like many parents, was surprised by the "wanderlust" element in the returns, the penchant for America was predictable. "As you can see, although few have been, there is a certain level of knowledge that all children share about the States, partly from the TV of course, but also from the importation of what you could call the McDonalds culture... the country appears to them to be bigger, brasher, livelier and more exciting, all aspects which are very important. In this respect, America is a childlike country."

It is not just cost that inhibits parents from taking family holidays to America; there are the four other disincentives of food; healthcare; heat/climate; and travel problems, none of which loom nearly as large in a United Kingdom venture. What parents are obviously failing to grasp is that "Abroad" is not just a concept, it is actually another country.

In the words of this nine-year-old girl: "Abroad there'll be nicer beaches and the seas are warmer, the beach will be warmer, there'll be sand." Sentiments echoed by another girl with three years more experience of these matters: "Abroad you get a better suntan than you would here." Yet the harsh truth is that only 37 per cent of the sample

have already travelled abroad, compared with the total of 79 per cent who still want to go for a first or subsequent time.

Parents also have much to learn about family democracy. In 84 per cent of the cases, the decision on where to go is taken by "Mum or Dad only", while the children hold sway in only 16 per cent of households. Girl aged 12: "Well, my parents decide where to go and ask us if we'd like to go there." Girl aged nine: "We have this quiz, who goes where, and my Dad normally wins."

Aeroplane are the most popular means of getting there with 47 per cent of the vote, followed by hovercraft (27), ship (16), train (eight), car (six) and coach (one). Sea travel, of course, has its problems, as this 12-year-old girl explains so graphically: "You start to get your start to get ill."

Taking all forms of travel together, only 27 per cent said they felt sick - in some cases, like this boy of 11, for unexpected reasons: "Setting off you start feeling sick sometimes because you are so bored and can't wait."

Among girls, hotels emerge as the favourite accommodation, for excellent reasons such as these, both from 12-year-olds: "A hotel is posh, you meet new people"; and: "In a hotel

you get room service, if you make a mess it's all cleared up for you." Boys share the judgment, but only with a figure of 39 per cent compared with the girls' 53 per cent. For both genders, a camp site is second choice and a villa third.

The top five desiderata at hotels are: swimming pool, restaurants and bars, indoor games, nice beds and outdoor games. "Fitted carpets and a waiter to bring my food by the pool," says a 10-year-old girl. "Marble tiles in the corridors so I can make a noise with my shoes," says a male contemporary.

Ice cream tops the list of favourite holiday fare (only two per cent declaring it "horrid"), but all the other popular options (fish and chips, soup, fried chicken and french bread) score in the high eighties or nineties. In the hate poll, snails just outstrip frog legs, with octopus only slightly less loathsome.

The ten "most fun activities" are, in order: staying up late, swimming in a pool, playing on the beach, going to an adventure playground, attending parties/barbecues, swimming in the sea, playing with other English children, boating and water sports, going to discos, and eating in a restaurant.

Less fun activities include going for a drink with Mum and Dad, watching parades and playing in hotel lifts.

While away, only 36 per cent miss home, 60 per cent do not, and four per cent are uncertain. Most sorely missed by one respondent is "Foxy the cat, Bramble my best Teddy, and my bed." The quote is not attributed, but, with altered names, the sentiments are infinitely transferable.

Mr Andrew Barrett, marketing director of Cooks, believes that his company, thus armed, will be better able to point the undecided parent, or indeed child, in the right direction. As you read this, he himself is travelling to Disneyland with his two young children, who have been pressing him for an answer to the question: "How big are the Mickey Mouses and do they move about?" Meanwhile, I am going to the Lake District for the umpteenth time, to stay with my wife's seven-year-old god-daughter, do hope her parents are there, since chatting to them is high on my list of fun activities. My daughter, who is five, longs to stay there year after year, which is fortunate.

One reason for this - not the main one I hope - is that the older girl has a splendid wardrobe of dresses which devolve to her as the most radiant of hand-me-downs. But that, I suppose, is cheating.

COMMENT Hooray for Hackney

As I walked home along the canal in the blazing sunshine, I thought how pleasant it was to live in this part of London. In view was a duck with eight ducklings, little boys fishing, grandparents walking pretty little children. Where was I? I discovered that I have been happily living for the past eight years in a "no-go area for almost all except those compelled to remain there," according to Gerald Kaufman, in his column last Monday, and Paul Harrison, who has written a book called *Inside the Inner City*. What? Can this be Hackney, hub of the universe?

Can this be the place I moved to because I like it, where I could afford a house, and where the services were good? Far from fleeing the place, I propose to stay in Hackney for the rest of my days.

Not only can I walk to work, I can take any one of seven bus routes. The service is intermittent (as in the rest of London) but there is also the secret railway from Dalston Junction to Richmond, and the newly opened Kingsland station. Within a few moments walk of my gracious Hackney home I have two excellent public libraries, the church I attend, and a number of friendly shops.

All hours of the day and night appear to be worked and these are also the hours I walk about the place, returning home from the theatre and parties in the middle of the night without coming to any harm.

I have been burgled twice. The second time, with the aid of my neighbours, the police caught the burglars. The household in London which has not been burgled is a fortunate one.

My house, which was indeed in a sad state when I bought it, has been put in order by me. When I moved there in 1975 there were six derelict within 200 yards. Now there are none - all have been repaired. The bombed site opposite has been filled with council houses - not a dreary block, but a reasonable imitation of a London town house. I like the street markets, the frenetic activity of Ridley Road, the garden market on Sundays.

On Sundays the congregation at Mass reflects the population - Irish, English, Italian, Portuguese, black. That variety is what keeps a neighbourhood alive. In Hackney we frighten the children with tales of dark satanic mills in Mr Kaufman's constituency of Gorton, Manchester. None of us has ever set foot in the place.

"Petition, £3.95.

Philippa Toomey

TALKBACK

Working with a baby in the house

Margery Roberts wrote last week of the impossibility of mixing a career with bringing up children.

From Audrey Macleod, 94 Woodward Road, Dulwich

Now Mrs Roberts (First Person, August 19), get your hands out of that bucket of Nappies and put aside your baby wipes. Widen your thinking and be glad you are able to look after your healthy, active kids yourself, for a career plus nanny/granny would undoubtedly trouble your anxieties. Relax and enjoy your small children now while at the same time working to change some of your inflexible attitudes.

May I suggest a modest survival kit? First, decide on priorities and job-share some of these with your husband, and secondly aim for a tiny oasis of freetime each day, however scant, and guard it jealously.

Keep your own interests going and your friends (the ones who accept you as you are, and be selfish and spoil yourself often). This way you will be better able to meet the unending demands of others without feeling permanently deprived.

Replace the grudging "I suppose I shall have to resign myself to motherhood alone" by a more informed and positive approach. You could see yourself as entering an enriching period of growth and emotional development.

From Mary R Lamberton, 48 The Avenue Kew, Surrey

I am a visitor from America. May I suggest to Margery Roberts how I and others manage to do it without the aid of nannies or mothers-in-law.

I have two children aged eight and five and I have been working for three years for a magazine publisher in Washington, D.C. I can do this for the following reasons:

1. An employer who is willing to hire me for 20-30 hours a week paying my salary on an hourly basis.
2. A school which offers day care after regular school hours until 6pm. Actually, I have never used this myself as I like to come home with the children, but it is a valuable service.
3. A short commute which is only ten minutes in my case.

4. A job which one can perform outside the office. Primary times for a mother are Saturdays when fathers can take over and evenings and early mornings when children are asleep. This flexibility is important when chickenpox appears.
5. Domestic help. I have a daily



once a week which maintains my sanity and minimum standards.

6. A supportive husband. The advantages of being a working mother outweigh the demands from home and office.

From Mrs Jennifer White, 9 Birch Way, Chesham, Buckinghamshire

Margery Roberts is right - the only way a mother can work is to abandon her child to someone else. However, I must object to her slur on child-minders. As a minder for the past five years, I feel it my duty to point out that we are registered by the council, our houses are checked for safety and first-aid provision and we are limited to three pre-school children at any one time.

We have an area supervisor, regular meetings and access to a toy library. We aspire towards being semi-professionals. Generally, our press image has improved since the "baby farm" scandals of the sixties, and rightly so.

We are not simply second best to a nanny. In fact, we have some advantages over the nanny, apart from being cheaper. Child-minders are usually mothers themselves and are used to children, indeed we enjoy their company.

From Mrs Susan Hawke, 24 Cowside Road, Great Glenn, Leicester

Margery Roberts mirrors much of my own experience. After 13 years at home with under-fives I know that I would be incapable of combining a career and the care of my family with any degree of success or semblance of sanity.

I count myself fortunate. My husband's salary is sufficient to enable me to stay at home to care for the family and although our lifestyle is relatively simple we have no genuine need for a second income.

But let us spare a thought for the unsung heroine of the low-income or single-parent family. She often has no such choice and is forced to work

long, boring hours in an unfulfilling job before returning home to tackle the household tasks that take Margery Roberts and me a whole day to complete.

From Margaret Galling, Almondbury, Carters Lane, Old Woking, Surrey

I have recently resumed a career as part-time midwife after a three-year break in which I had two children, went to university, started keeping chickens and had a jolly good time.

I have been sadly disillusioned. In my own home I am the kingpin - sit as judge and jury for all family misdemeanours. My husband is far too busy.

Why on earth then did I feel the need to be important outside my family? I really don't know because the ghastly truth is that I am not! My brain seems perfectly capable, but my hands seem to have become prematurely senile as they wrestle with new-fangled drip sets and fancy machines.

My personal confidence has hit an all-time low as I have been told by an eighteen-year-old that I'm putting on nappies the wrong way and have got my mask on upside down.

The final blow is, of course, it's not really My Very Own Money. It must go to the joint finances. I would be peeved, after all, for my husband claimed his salary as His Very Own Money.

From Mrs S. E. Minchin, 14 Macklinburgh Square, London

When Margery Roberts is 50 or thereabouts, I wonder how she will receive a request from her daughter/daughter-in-law to be a nanny (unpaid) to a brood of grandchildren, simply because their mother wants the best of both worlds.

THE TIMES Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES



● **EASY GLIDER:** How safe is hang-gliding now? why more women are taking it up.

● **TRAVEL:** The present appeal of Syria's past; Carnival time in the Caribbean;



● **FAMILY MONEY:** How much should your mortgage cost you?

● **SPORT:** Cricket - the Fourth Test Match; football - preview of the season's opening matches.

THE GREAT WIN-A-CAR COMPETITION

Plus

All the news from home and abroad; the Times Garden Project; Values on value for money for back-packers; Drink on Austrian wines; critics' choice of what's happening in the arts; selected guide to next week's events.

THE TIMES DIARY

No surrender

Where is the instrument of surrender signed by Major-General Jeremy Moore and General Menéndez in the Falklands? Ian Kerr, who is marketing framed reproductions of the contemporary photocopy at £19.90 each, says no one can tell him the whereabouts of the original. It is officially denied that Moore has it, though the late Lord Montgomery certainly kept for the rest of his life the surrender signed at Lunenburg Heath. That document passed to the Imperial War Museum, with Monty's car and other papers, after his death. "Is the Falklands surrender on Maggie's too door?" Kerr asks irreverently. My PHSnoop in Downing Street sneaked a look, and it's not.

Bitter

The Campaign for Real Ale has declared war on an International Lager Festival, and banned its promoters. Watney Mann and Turrill, from next month's Great British Beer Festival in Birmingham. There is indeed little international about the lagers featured. Carlsberg is brewed in Northampton, and Fosters and Holsten Drought come from Morlaix. Holsten Diat Pils is brewed in Hamburg, but bottled at Isleworth. Lagers brewed here are weaker than their continental counterparts and their price is 10p to 15p a pint more than is charged for the more flavoured and traditional English bitter. The British Beer Festival organizer, Tim Webb, says: "Watney's are cynically using the festival idea to promote lagers only weeks before taking part in the biggest festival of traditional British beers. We could not let them get away with it." I'll drink to that.

● In California, a PHSoot report, there is a French restaurant next door to a dealer in gemstones. They are jointly called Chic-by-Jewel.

Shrinking

As a bookseller Sigmund Freud has come a little closer to my office. His likeness, sculpted by Lynn Kramer, presided for years behind the counter of Bernard Stone's shop in Covent Garden. Now Stone has bought Sigsy, as old customers know him, to Lamb's Conduit Street, Bloomsbury, and just in time for the street fair. New customers mistake Freud for an uncooperative assistant, and complain of his extreme taciturnity. This will not change, I fear, when he is shortly joined by Leonardo da Vinci.

Skin deep

Here is another winning sausage joke, this one from Mrs F. M. Pelling of Much Hadham: A henpecked husband was sent to buy some steak. "Here you are, sir," said the butcher "tender as a woman's heart." "In that case," replied the man, "I'll take a pound of sausages."

BARRY FANTONI



"But darling, they sell perfectly good hamburgers at Fado's!"

Best of Spike

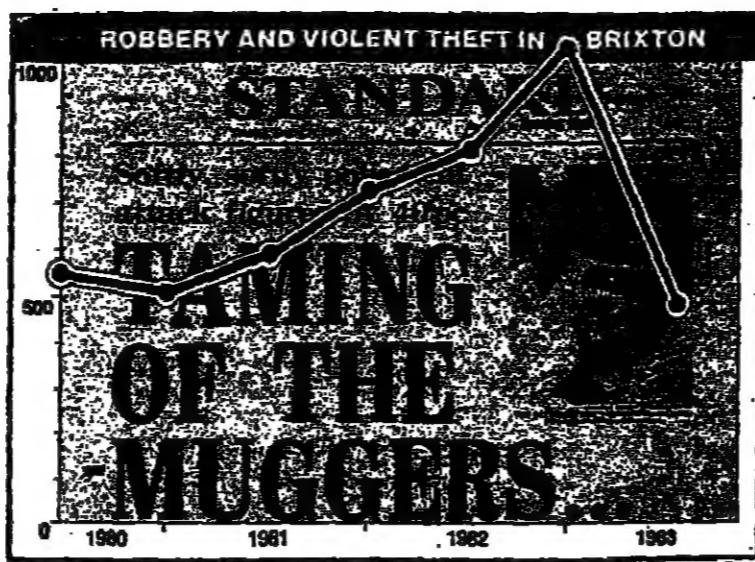
Pauline Scudamore of Upper Cheyne Row, SW3, is guaranteed a pretty funny mailbag in the coming weeks. She is appealing for anecdotes to include in an authorized life of Spike Milligan. Milligan is at present in South Africa, visiting an elephant he has adopted and named Mrs Thatcher, and only yesterday my colleague on the *Daily Mirror* was reminiscing that he once found Spike in the early hours in Soho, sitting alone in a large duffin. When the lady who is now his wife was sent to Milligan as a temporary secretary, the first letter he dictated to her went: "Dear Pope, I am not going to be a Catholic any more if you do not stop experiments on animals. Your semi-loyal servant, Spike." Yet when I attended a reunion of the Spike Milligan Old Comrades Association I was surprised how uncomradely they were. "Spike Milligan's wholly unreliable," one complained. "My invitation to this party gave completely the wrong address, and none of my friends here got one at all."

Michael Pomtney, books merchandise controller for W. H. Smith, will be displeased to see this item in the latest issue of the *WHS* paper, *Newspack*. Pomtney explains to an offended manager that it was only decided to stock the book *101 Uses for the Unemployed*, from which my illustration comes, because it would be "news" if they did not. "If we were not to buy it," Pomtney argues, "a lot more attention and sales would be drawn to the book than would otherwise happen". So instead they plan to "sell it but do nothing particular to promote it." And still they get attention.

PHS

George Brock on the problems of interpreting crime statistics

Mugging: what is the truth?



To judge by the confidence of the headlines which appear as a result of almost any official announcement, good or bad, about crime rates, the figures should command respect for their accuracy and authority. Percentages and unrounded numbers sound so scientific. But behind the headlines, such respect seems curiously lacking. Take Mr James Anderson, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, last year: "What precisely do the statistics tell us about the state of criminality in the nation and what do they suggest should be done about it? Very little, is the answer I would give."

Or the Police Federation magazine, in the same year: "No informed person regards the existing criminal statistics as the most reliable indicator of the state of crime." Or the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, in the House of Lords: "So far as the statistics are concerned, I propose to say nothing, except that they are mostly misleading and very largely unintelligible."

Last week, the police in Lambeth released figures showing that crimes classified as "robbery and other violent theft" had fallen during the first six months of this year compared with the same period last year (see table). This swiftly translated into "Muggings down 40 per cent" headlines, with an accompanying gloss from local senior police officers. "I personally feel that we are winning the battle of Brixton," said one.

So far, the more moderate local organizations represented on the Lambeth Police Consultative Group have endorsed the police optimism and are eager customers for crime figures which they are now given once a month. The black youths who continue to distrust the police and such committees remain, as before, on the outside.

Crime figures should be handled very gingerly. Mugging generates more political heat than any other crime, and is at the same time one of the most difficult to count precisely. Legally, there is no such thing, and the word is loosely used to refer to a host of different classifications which policemen and academics have used to sift crime reports and statistics. For the purpose of the most detailed internal analyses, Scotland Yard's G10 statistical branch defines mugging as "the offence of robbery of personal property in the open when there is no previous association between the offender and victim." (The standard definition of robbery automatically implies the use or threat of force.)

When senior officers wish to refer to mugging, they point to the streets, but generally it has shown great restraint. Lathi charges have often been conducted by policemen at walking pace, intimidating the crowds by banging their long, iron-shod canes on the road or walls, but without actually breaking heads. Police shootings, a common enough event in the sub-continent, have taken place only where property was being destroyed and life threatened.

A rapidly mounting death toll, or the killing of some revered figure, could spread the disturbances from the one turbulent province to the rest of the country. This regime is plainly anxious to avoid.

So far the techniques appear to be working, except in Sind. But Sind is a special case. The southern province has long felt itself oppressed by the rest of Pakistan, and particularly by the Punjab. Sindhis complain that their senior government officials are brought in from outside, that they have not participated to the same extent as the Punjab in the country's economic expansion.

A quarter-page advertisement in a Karachi newspaper this week illustrates why the Sindhis feel persecuted. It complains about the special tax that Karachi has to pay on petrol to ensure that fuel costs are the same all round the country despite the cost of transporting it to distant provinces. At the same time it objects to having to pay a higher electricity tariff than the rest of the country, where hydro-electric schemes provide cheaper current than Karachi's thermal generators. Baluchistan and North-West Frontier also feel oppressed by the central government. But the Baluch and the Pathans have not risen like the Sindhis. These two provinces are

statistical categories "robbery" and "other violent theft," which draw in a much broader range of offences. They cover anything from a shotgun raid on a bank or shop to a purse snatch. This crudity inflated the row over the Yard's decision to release figures for the colour of suspects in these categories alone.

"The Yard blames black muggers," said one headline among many when the figures - which looked considerably less sensational with non-mugging robbery and theft subtracted - were announced.

In the case of Brixton during the first six months of this year, the local head of the CID, Chief Superintendent Ray Adams, is sure that the "middle band" of robberies - street robberies - is the one that has fallen as a result of new tactics in the area which include "targeted" surveillance of likely locations and suspects, more officers on the streets, and close attention to community cooperation. "It's an opportunistic crime and we've cut down the opportunities," he said this week.

Other kinds of crime in Brixton, and the rest of Lambeth, have remained at much the same level as before, suggesting that the special attention given to street robbery recently may have had real effect. Whether the figures stay down will depend what lies behind the drop. Street robbers have sometimes turned out to be few in number but very active: a handful of people may commit dozens of offences. If the right handful have been caught, the effect on the statistics can be long lasting. If however extra policemen on the street are simply deterring robbers who are waiting for quieter

times, keeping up the deterrent means keeping up the policing level.

Since the end of last year, L division has enjoyed the services of 93 extra men and also benefited from the transfer of men to "home beat" duties from other jobs. The local commander, Mr Alex Marsh, readily admits that "I've been getting more than my cut of the cake."

Experiments elsewhere with special measures for particular crimes have sometimes simply driven the figures down by driving the criminals into the set of statistics next door. At the moment, it is impossible to tell whether or not L division's criminals have dispersed to other places where they will attract less attention and publicity. Equivalent figures are not available for neighbouring parts of south London. Other parts of L division than Brixton report generally stable crime rates, except Streatham, where robbery and other violent theft are slightly up. One Streatham residents' association has already complained that its interests are being neglected at the expense of its more famous neighbours.

There are more general reasons for scepticism in the face of crime figures. Academic studies have shown that the crimes which are reported are a fraction of those actually committed. The studies differ on the size of the "dark figure" of unreported crime, estimates ranging from five to 15 times the reported rate. Some crime "rises" appear to reflect only a rise in the number of crimes which the police are told about. A recent Home Office study suggested that during the 1970s the rate of burglary stayed

almost level, while the number of reported burglaries rose steadily - a change perhaps explained by the rapid spread of home insurance policies, which require break-ins to be notified to the police.

Other studies have shown that the rate of reported crime can fluctuate out of all relation to the real rate at which it is happening, others that the ways in which policemen write off certain incidents as "no crime" - a practice known as "cuffing" - varies enormously, from area to area. During the past 10 years, the ways in which local statistics were collected and the number of police officers used to grab lurid headlines caused enough concern at the Home Office for the launching of several studies to correct some of the wilder misapprehensions. Much more recently, sterner measures have been taken. Since this summer, local forces inside the Metropolitan Police may not release their own figures until the raw material of the crime reports has been forwarded to the central statistical experts for vetting.

This still leaves the process private and ill understood. The compilation and use of crime figures is becoming one of the elements in the accountability battle being waged between Scotland Yard and the GLC and boroughs which have established inquisitive police committees. The figures in Brixton have also been, and still are, a weapon in the post-Scamman debate inside the police about crime strategies.

When Scamman's post-mortem prescription first appeared, the police went on the offensive to discredit his proposals. The chairman of the Police Federation told his members that "saturation" policing was the only answer to mugging; muggings had doubled since the riots, said the *Daily Telegraph*; it was Britain's "top crime," said the *Daily Mirror*; and the Deputy Assistant Commissioner at Scotland Yard claimed that Scamman had undermined the police's ability to act decisively. All this has now faded into silence and been replaced by an optimistic "softly softly" front, and cautious celebration of the new figures.

None of this is likely to satisfy the voices calling for greater accountability for the Metropolitan Police, who would like, among other things, the power to examine and vet the machinery which turns out crime figures. In the words of Walter Essey, head of Camden Council's police committee support unit: "The police are a huge nationalized industry. What other one of those would let so much activity go by without proper accountable auditing?"



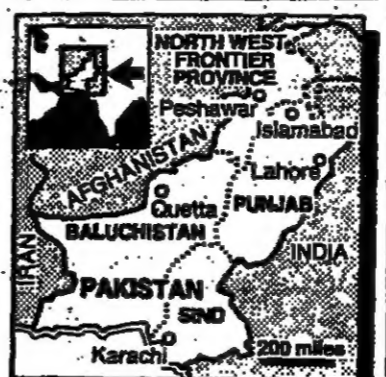
Zia: arrests then restraint

much more remote and sparsely inhabited, and the MRD leadership was caught wrong-footed at the start of the civil disobedience campaign by an open split between the ancient "Frontier Gandhi", Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, who leads the National Democratic Party, and its partner, the Pakistan People's Party formerly led by the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Partly because of this and other splits, and because of the extent of the government preparations, many observers have tended to underestimate the ability of the MRD to keep together and to organize an extended campaign of agitation.

To give the campaign credibility, the leaders of the movement, and particularly of the Pakistan People's Party, the dominant force in the MRD, have had to work all out to build up momentum.

The initial impetus was given by a skillfully organized mass demonstration at the tomb of the founder of Pakistan, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, and was brutally interrogated. It is essentially an historical film about a particularly dark period of Polish experience. According to a secret transcript of a meeting held in the Ministry of Culture after the showing of the film, most of Bugalski's peers praised its artistic quality but warned that "a film of such passion will evoke great passions in return." This was a damning criticism: anything that could stir up political emotions has been excised from cultural life.



on independence day, when there would be many people on the streets and away from work anyway. That momentum has been kept up by the *sarhads* - the landed aristocracy - working to keep the leadership of the popular movements.

But the campaign now needs another nudge to keep it moving. The trade unions are standing on the sidelines before deciding how to react. Organized labour has been kept more or less quiet recently by one or two large wage settlements. Those to benefit include all government servants, a piece of bribery that may well cost a good deal in inflation later but removes a present possible cause of discontent.

President Zia has been lucky with the weather too. Good monsoon rains have dampened demonstrators' ardour, and the floods have given them plenty to do at home protecting their crops and houses.

And even in Sind, the regime's policy of restraint, which allowed the first day's demonstration to go off virtually unopposed by the security forces, and which has still prevented the imposition of curfews of however limited scope, may have helped damp down the revolt.

But the fire has been lit. Of course, fires sometimes sputter and go out. All Pakistan is now waiting calmly watching to see whether this one will catch, whether it will ignite an explosion of popular resentment against six years of military government.

Michael Hamlyn

David Watt

Giving the voters what they want

You can tell quite a lot about politicians from their holiday photographs. Harold Macmillan's penchant for pictures of himself in plus-fours surrounded by 12-bore aristocrats. Ted Heath's sailing shots; John Kennedy playing touch football on the Hyannis beach; Lyndon Johnson prodding steers on the banks of the Pedernales; Harold Wilson seen guarding the approaches to the Channel from his Scillies cottage - all these were highly revealing because they displayed the kind of person the subject was supposed to be when he wasn't being a politician. This is a matter of course importance, for voters like to identify with "the real person" behind the official persona or at least to share a little of his fantasy life.

Mrs Thatcher, paradoxically, is on to a rather good and characteristic thing with her disappearance from camera view behind the expensive respectability of a Swiss chalet, for it encourages visions of cosy bourgeois privacy to which a lot of Tory voters no doubt aspire. But it is Ronald Reagan chopping logs on his California ranch and thinking about whether he will or will not run for the presidency in 1984, who takes the prize in this department. His appearance displays everything that the ordinary American voter can desire - immense wealth and a healthy on-the-range life-style with a touch of the old frontier throw-in. The log-chopping play is not exactly new; Mr Gladstone thought of it first and even used to hand out the wood-chips to visiting Liberal delegations as souvenirs. But it effectively implies that this super-gentleman is a healthy, hardy sort of type, well capable of carrying the burdens of the presidency for another four years, etc.

In short, this is exactly how Americans would like their president to relax and it is another example of Mr Reagan's apparently effortless ability to do the thing most likely to elicit sympathy and warmth from his fellow countrymen. Assuming that he does decide to run next year - and there is not a lot of doubt about it - it is the almost universal view of American commentators that this instinctive rapport will secure his election.

This is a phenomenon worth thinking about. What the conventional wisdom is stating is that Reagan will get a second term partly because American presidents normally do go beyond terms but mainly because the American people, if forced to choose, would rather have a nice guy in the White House than a genuinely effective president. It goes without saying that a man like Jimmy Carter, whom the American people came to the conclusion is not "nice" in the required sense, under the American system cannot be an effective president; but we are now hearing something more startling than that. The implication is that there is very little that could be perpetrated or left undone in American domestic or foreign policy between now and November 1984 that would make much difference to the outcome of the election.

Those who find this sobering proposition unpalatable have two possible escapes, neither entirely satisfactory. The first is to say that

the whole thesis is an exaggeration. If, for instance, the President got involved in what could plausibly be labelled a "Vietnam situation" in Central America, or if the economy completely collapsed again, things might become very difficult. And if the "nice guy" image became tarnished by some personal scandal they would look very different indeed - hence the apparently ludicrous amount of attention given to the "Debategate" question of whether Mr Reagan was or was not party to the theft of Mr Carter's television notes in the 1980 election.

All this is true and sets realistic limits to Mr Reagan's popularity. But the fundamental point remains intact. The Atlantic alliance could fall apart, another Middle East war could break out, and another recession of quite serious dimensions be created under the Administration's monetary neglect without reversing Mr Reagan's fortunes. People would simply say: "Well, OK, he's not the greatest; but he did his best and he's a hell of a nice guy."

The alternative response - and presumably the one that would be adopted by Mrs Thatcher - is that only disappointed Keynesians would delude themselves that Reagan will win in 1984 in spite of his policies. On the contrary, Reagan's popularity is due as much to his robust conservatism as it is to his boyish smile and winning ways. The American people, like the British, have cast off the shackles of wet liberalism and are now ready to applaud a leader who is publicly committed to rolling back the frontiers of the state at home and the menace of communism abroad.

But the trouble with offering this as the chief explanation of Reagan's popularity is that Reagan has been so bad at following his own prescriptions that he has lost low budgets, low taxation, "supply side" growth - all these have been tried and either found impossible or wanting, then rejected in favour of something else and then tried again - and all without producing the lasting prosperity that was originally promised. The American economy is at last having its boom but interest rates and unemployment are at fearful levels and nobody has any great confidence that it will last. As for all the anti-Soviet rhetoric, there is nothing to show for it except an over-subsidized defence budget which the Congress (not exactly insensitive to public opinion) has refused to pass. Moreover the internal relations of the Government are a shambles. Hardly a day passes without some press story of major rows.

The average American voter who observes all this cannot be expected to share the private view of most politicians and officials in Western Europe - namely that this is almost certainly the most dangerously incompetent American administration since the Second World War. But he is aware that the Conservative promise of cool, profitable, minimal government could hardly be further from fruition. What saves the President from the fate of Jimmy Carter, who was actually more efficient, is the lack of a plausible Democratic opponent - and the national reverberations of an axe wielded on a California ranch by a nice guy in a lumberjack's shirt.

Philip Howard

Serving for a hole in one

If only I could get rid of the unforgotten errors, I should be champion. The service is going better this summer. Well, put it this way: there are marginally fewer double faults, and the in-swinging first service delivered with a stiff arm and a hideous grimace has occasionally touched the line of the backhand court, and crashed into the net like a startled pheasant. But the backhand has developed a nervous and pitiful scoop that lobs the ball gently up towards the net and the volleys have been flying off the wood in whimsical directions like spinners in a sawmill.

The trouble about having a mother who won a Wimbledon doubles championship is that one thinks that tennis ought to come naturally by birthright, without coaching or practice. Every summer after watching the professionals at Wimbledon make it look easy, I think I am going to be a champion at last this year. Then on holiday I get out on the court, and fantasy gives way to reality and 0-40, set point, double faults. Are you quite sure it was out? Dammit.

Mind you, I blame the tools, like any bad workman. The racket is an obsolete pre-war make called "The Improved Phenomenon". It has lost a string or two at the edges, and has been warped by the Scotch mist of 50 summers into a lopsided and sinister irregularity like a grinning face. The court was home-made in 1931, when news of this strange new game had penetrated darkest Ayrshire, and everybody who was anybody in the county suddenly had to have a tennis court. "The qualifications of a fine gentleman are to eat a la mode, drink champagne, dance jigs, and play at tennis," - Thomas Shadwell (or so the seventeenth century. They are still trying up here in Ayrshire, without much success.

The surface is hard on the ball, and wears through the bottom of the toughest of gym shoes in three sets. It is cheaper to play in gumboots, and never to let the ball bounce, if only you can manage to hit your volleys in. And, whoops, there goes another one through the chicken netting into the matted jungle of thistles, bracken, and rhododendrons. I should think there must be several hundred completely bald tennis balls within 50 yards of where I am standing now. They will present a pretty puzzle to future archaeologists. A factory for manufacturing cult objects, or some sort of ritual trading system, like the shells of the Trobriand Islanders, would you say, professor?

The passage of time and gumboots has cracked the surface. The western end looks like the surface of the moon or the trenches on the sun. It plays like it too. It has been infected by a slimy creeping fungus like seaweed that manages inconspicuously to combine extreme slipperiness with extreme underlying abrasiveness. There is a distinct advantage for the home team against anybody who comes new and innocent to the court. On good days I fancy my chances on it against McEnroe - for the first set. I do not think that the grumpy old grunter would take kindly to the clouds of midges and horribles that come out towards evening, filling the air and muzzling anybody unwary enough to open it.

The tattered chicken netting is interlaced with brambles and wild raspberry canes, so that frivolous tennis players have been known to disregard a service completely while guzzling yellow raspberries on the baseline. This fecklessness (or sensible order of priorities) can drive the server to despair (or at any rate two consecutive double faults). The balls disappear down the rabbit holes which have spread even inside the netting.

Victims from Mars would consider it an odd ceremony for a grown man to take games so seriously. But that is an old game, Sam Johnson observed: "It is unjust to claim the privileges of age, and retain the plannings of childhood." Too right, Sam. But we still carry on.

Roger Boyes

مکرمات الاصل



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M MITTERRAND EXPLAINS

In his first major explanation of French policy in Chad, President Mitterrand has emphasized that French troops would not be restricted to "purely defensive retaliation" if attacked, and blamed Libya for escalating the fighting in the long civil war. This was a sensible acknowledgment that once seriously committed to military action, the French would find attack the best means of defence. It simultaneously warned Colonel Gaddafi that he should permit a peaceful settlement now rather than risk greater loss of face after a direct clash develops between French and Libyan troops.

By stating that while partition would be unacceptable, a federal solution might be possible and that he expected the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and United Nations to help arrange peace talks, President Mitterrand was making it easier for the Libyan leader to back down. But neither the OAU nor the UN have proved effective in such crises in the past. If it does come to war, Mitterrand has prepared the French public and answered his critics by pointing out that the slow buildup of French forces had both postponed the clash and revealed Libya to all as the aggressor.

The growing French involvement in Chad requires such delicate handling in both foreign and domestic policy that the President's reluctance to discuss the issues fully in public is understandable. But his careful answers to questions agreed beforehand in an interview published yesterday in *Le Monde* have failed to silence complaints that the population is not being

properly informed about a situation which arouses threatening memories of long years of bloodshed in Indochina and Algeria. Media rivals see the interview as a reward for the sympathetic coverage *Le Monde* has given President Mitterrand, and feel with some justice that a more open statement of policy is called for.

Few Frenchmen trust fully President Hissène Habré as representing their interests in Chad, remembering as they do his hostility as a rebel less than a decade ago, when for three years he held hostage the French anthropologist Mme Françoise Claustre. They fear that the presence of their troops may encourage him to launch a counter-offensive in the hope that the French would be compelled to increase their military commitment in restoring his position against Mr Goukouni Oueddei, who formerly, when President, also received French support.

According to a recent survey, little more than a quarter of those polled supported sending troops to Chad, while over half were opposed. President Mitterrand attempted to calm these fears by stressing that French troops would not be manipulated into participating in a counter-attack "France will not allow itself to be led where it does not want to go". This protestation does not, of course, exclude a counter-attack if provoked by the Libyan-backed forces.

It is important for President Mitterrand that he should not appear to be acting for Washing-

ton in attempting to contain Colonel Gaddafi's expansionism. He regards negotiation, rather than military conflict, as the best way of settling the war while preserving France's commercial interests in Libya. Last week *Le Monde* reported that President Mitterrand was irritated at what he regarded as US pressure and had emphasized that French policy is made in Paris. Some of that irritation was still present in his latest statement when he commented that "the Americans have been much taken up with us; yes, very much".

This attitude helps deal with the left-wing critics who are particularly sensitive about accusations that a socialist government is pursuing in Africa the gendarme policy of Gaullist administrations. The Communists have voiced their anxiety about sending troops to Chad, but after pushing the Soviet line so strongly on the Geneva disarmament talks, they cannot expect to continue in government if they adopt too closely the Kremlin view that France is being edged by Washington into a "neo-colonialist venture, a Vietnam, Chad-style".

President Mitterrand's exposition yesterday contained a tough message for Colonel Gaddafi, warning him to withdraw without causing further bloodshed. This will clearly be strongly opposed by Mr Goukouni Oueddei, who can expect to gain little at the peace table. The Libyan leader is not famed for his moderation, but it is to be hoped that he will now realize that it is in his own best interests to respond in a reasonable way.

FAR AND FOREIGN CAPTIVITY

Overcrowded and ancient as they are, British prisons would rank respectably high in any Good Jails Guide compiled for the information of the cosmopolitan convict. At least in principle they accept the proposition that criminals are sent to prison as a punishment rather than for punishment, and that gratuitous harsh treatment is not an acceptable means of promoting a policy of deterrence. Prisons reflect the attitudes of the societies around them, and conditions that may appear rugged but humane to an Asian peasant may well seem intolerably rigorous to a western tourist who has been foolish enough to dabble in drugs. To the shared physical hardship is added the isolation of unfamiliarity with language and customs, and separation from friends and family. In some countries so little regard is paid to prisoners' rights that they are in constant danger of physical violence or untreated illness.

The simple individual remedy, of course, is not to get into trouble. But as international travel becomes easier the number of criminals who land themselves in prisons far from home is likely to increase. Such cases and the sympathy they sometimes arouse can become a significant irritant to good relations between countries, and

even a source of prejudice. The problem is complicated by the fact that sentences as well as conditions vary widely, according to how seriously different societies view each offence. This has been the chief stumbling-block to the development of the Council of Europe's convention on the transfer of prisoners to their own countries, which was signed yesterday by Britain.

The drugs trade provides some of the most difficult cases. A number of countries near the sources of the illicit drug trade have introduced heavy penalties at the urging of the western countries which are the main markets. They might not unreasonably accuse western countries of discrimination when they call for severity, while urging leniency for their own citizens. But equally it is difficult for a country where possession of soft drugs is a minor offence to make a citizen serve a very long sentence for it, imposed by a foreign court.

The only kind of agreement that is likely to be acceptable must allow for a good deal of give and take. The Council of Europe's convention is based on the principle that all three parties - the sentencing state, the prisoner's homeland and the prisoner himself - should agree

to each transfer. A homeland asking for repatriation will have to make clear in advance the conditions on which it is ready to take the prisoner (including what it means to do about remission, parole, and so on). In agreeing to the transfer the sentencing country will accept these terms. Difficulties would arise if one country considered that the prisoner had discharged his debt to society, while the other regarded him as liable to further penalties. There is room for friction here, but also for compromise.

For many prisoners, including some of the most harshly treated, the convention will be irrelevant - for those held for offences that are not regarded as offences at all at home, for instance and those held without trial, like Mr Kenneth Carmichael, held in Saudi Arabia for debt since 1981. The 16 countries which have signed do not include several where the problem is particularly acute, though the Home Secretary plans to seek bilateral agreements with others. But the convention is a step towards the creation of an international presumption that offenders abroad should not have the penalties imposed by the courts multiplied by the isolation and even hazards of captivity far from home.

FLIGHT PATH TO THE LAW COURTS

British Airways makes its first move in court today in its attempt to get a legal ruling against the Civil Aviation Authority. The authority has granted British Midland Airways a licence to run a shuttle service between Heathrow and Belfast in competition with British Airways' service. Midland is already challenging BA on the Edinburgh and Glasgow shuttles and has taken away a third of its market. Another airline, Dan-Air, has predatory eyes on BA's Heathrow-Manchester shuttle. The competition is threatening BA's domestic profitability. It wants to stop the rot - by stopping the competition.

The 1980 Civil Aviation Act requires the CAA when considering applications for licences to have regard "to the effect on existing air transport services provided by British airlines" of authorizing any new service. The airline argues that if the CAA

had had regard to the fact that more duplication of shuttle services would push BA's domestic services into deficit it could not reasonably have authorized it. But the courts usually take a lot of persuading to substitute their own view for that of a statutory body in these "duty-to-have-regard-to" cases. It is a long-shot law suit, a measure of BA's lack of confidence that if it took the normal route of appeal, which is to the Secretary of State, its profits would weigh more heavily with that umpire than the benefits to the customer of a spot of competition.

Lord King, chairman of British Airways, vigorously defends his recourse to law. "It is my job," he has told *The Times*, "to protect my business, and because it happens to be owned by a taxpayer that does not mean that I am not going to seek the protection the law offers me. As far as I am concerned I operate

British Airways as if it was in the private sector. While I try to be fair, I do not intend to go round being kind to my competitors."

British Airways almost is in the private sector. Lord King's task is to put the nationalized airline into suitable shape for the stockmarket. The irony of this latest twist in its fortunes cannot be lost on him. The virtue of privatization is that it imparts to the transformed corporation the stimulus and discipline of a fully competitive context. That is why it is done. In order to prepare itself for the salutary plunge (by inter alia preserving the profitability of its domestic operations) the airline goes to law to suppress competition, competition which is the object of the whole exercise. And its chairman justifies the move by invoking the ethos of the private sector. There is more to privatization than meets the eye.

proven record of disruption but because of sometimes erroneous or speculative information about their private or political activities. That personal information collected about an individual should be accurate, obtained lawfully, relevant to the purpose to which it was collected (e.g. job performance) and not disclosed in a matter incompatible with the principles set out in the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, which the Government hopes to pass through its remaining stages in the forthcoming session of Parliament.

Unfortunately, the Bill in its present form will not safeguard people who lose jobs through

inaccurate and irrelevant information. Many of these records are held manually and therefore are not covered by the Bill. The Data Protection Registrar will be charged with enforcing the Act. However, with only 20 staff to deal with tens of thousands of computerized personal information systems he will be unable to be an effective monitor. Thus a Bill which purports to protect personal privacy will not prevent the increasing use of "monitoring" or "blacklisting" systems and increased intelligence gathering about political beliefs and opinions as we enter 1984. Yours faithfully, MARIE STAUNTON, Legal Officer, National Council for Civil Liberties, 21 Tabard Street, SE1, August 18.

Vetting job applicants

From Ms Marie Staunton
Sir, The National Council for Civil Liberties has for many years advised job applicants who have been victims of the "monitoring systems" referred to in your article (page 1, August 15). Highly sensitive personal information about political affiliation, honesty, sexual orientation and mental health is passed between employers and through central agencies.

The individual concerned does not have the right to check whether the information is accurate, and sometimes it is not. This information transfer can and does ensure that these persons are unable to obtain employment not because of any lack of ability to do the work or

Heart of dilemma for the Liberals

From Mr Michael Meadowcroft, MP for Leeds West, (Liberal/Alliance)

Sir, Bernard Levin's article today (August 24) on the Liberals contains too many mischievous half-truths and guesses to answer individually without missing the heart of the genuine dilemma that has always faced political parties, and which is far more acute when social and economic conditions are as serious as they currently are.

This dilemma is simply stated: should a political party hide or fudge the truth as it sees it for the sake of electoral success, and then hope that the public will not notice or will not mind if it says one thing and does another? Or should it present its analysis and its programme, even if unpopular, and seek to persuade the electors of its validity?

Roy Hattersley, for instance, now appears to subscribe to the former view. He regularly intones that Labour "has a moral duty to win next time", i.e., any package that can remove Mrs Thatcher from office deserves Labour support. Bernard Levin, and a number of other commentators, also believe that electoral success is paramount and that any debate on strategy and priorities risks offending the tender susceptibilities of our gentle and delicate electors.

For every Bernard Levin enjoying a surreptitious tendency towards populism there are a thousand electors telling canvassers that politicians are all the same, saying one thing before an election and another after it. If Mr Levin has his way that electoral cynicism will be given an additional boost by Liberals and will further delay the day when this country grapples with the enormity of our present crises.

My view is that the public desires consistency, respects integrity, and resents being conned. The electorate rejected the left-Labour alternative at the election not because it was highly ideological but because it neither rang true nor appeared consistent. The question for a party as well as for the commentators and for the public is the relevance of its ideology to its existence.

Those many thousands of people who join the Liberal Party and who give their skills, energy and resources without visible reward are by definition not individuals who are likely to sit and wait for a party "line" to be passed down from on high - however much respect and affection they have for David Steel. They tend to be interested in the formulation and promotion of ideas and there is an appropriate structure

for the debating and testing of such ideas.

No party in its right mind deliberately stresses those parts of its programme that are the least attractive, but equally no party with any integrity pretends that there are solutions to our current malaise that do not require sacrifice on the part of the public.

It is not a question of a handful of Liberal policies that Mr Levin so cheerfully caricatures. It is an approach to society; the kinds of values that are worth while and possible in the final years of this century; and the policies by which they can be achieved. These are the welcome and more legitimate targets for Mr Levin's incisive mind and blunt pen. Any lesser target is much too easy.

The difference between Bernard Levin and the working politician is that Mr Levin can write his commentary and then, if he so wishes, walk away from the problem. The MP or the councillor does not have that luxury; she or he has to find answers to the problems.

One takes Mr Levin's advice very seriously but I only wish that it was as thoroughly thought through as his writing on Wagner.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MEADOWCROFT,
House of Commons,
August 24.

From Lord Beaumont of Whitley
Sir, In writing about the Liberal Party Bernard Levin rightly identifies "a gap in the psyche of the left... a belief in itself by no means ignoble, that power is corrupting and that the left was put on earth to resist corruption and to purify."

But he, somewhat surprisingly, fails to distinguish between the Liberal Party and the rest of the left. Among the latter he rightly states that the belief gives rise to schizophrenia.

Liberals, on the other hand, have realised (to adapt Francis Bacon very slightly) that "power is like mud: not good except if it be spread". This is the foundation of democracy and needs to be taken further than we have taken it in this country.

It does indeed give rise in a highly centralised country to problems concerning means and ends, but it emphatically need not lead to the self-destruction to be seen in the rest of the left.

Yours faithfully,
TIM BEAUMONT,
(Past President, Liberal Party),
1 Hampstead Square, NW3,
August 24.

Defence review

From Colonel James Ferguson

Sir, Your leader, "Rethink on the Rhine" (August 17) does the subject less than justice. To discuss the defence of the central region of Allied Command Europe without a mention of US forces, either in place or as reinforcements, or of the Allied air forces makes the analysis somewhat incomplete.

Neither is justice done to the major contribution made by the Federal Republic to the defence of the region, namely 12 well-equipped divisions and, after mobilization, a Territorial Army of 500,000.

It is true, however, that there has been a reluctance by West Germany to flex the military and political muscles concomitant with her economic power and geographic location. But this has to be said that where this characteristic has been apparent it has been welcomed, not least by those who have painful memories of the exercise of German military power.

Dumping at sea

From Dr L. E. J. Roberts, FRS

Sir, Mr David McTaggart (August 16) criticises me for defending the position adopted by successive UK/British Governments on radioactive waste disposal in the deep ocean. In fact, this position is soundly based on technical and scientific observation and analysis.

It is not enough for Mr McTaggart to indulge in general criticisms of the "sinking holes" of the careful international assessments that have been made. Pessimistic assumptions were made whenever gaps in knowledge were recognised in the scientific work undertaken by the International Atomic Energy Agency before the very low limits allowed under the London Convention were agreed. It is a hard fact that none of the samples of fish or other marine organisms taken at the dump site has shown any increase in radioactivity above the increase found in any other area of the Atlantic.

The expert group convened by the Nuclear Energy Agency of the OECD reported clearly in 1980 that no hazard would arise from these operations. The London Convention itself states that proposals for change should be supported by fresh

scientific evidence. No such evidence relevant to the North Atlantic was produced in support of the resolution in February, 1983, referred to by Mr McTaggart. A further meeting of the NEA was held in May, after the London Convention meeting, to examine the scientific evidence relating to the use of this site; this again concluded that the objections to its use were without foundation.

With respect, Sir, a detailed scientific controversy cannot be conducted satisfactorily in the correspondence columns of *The Times*.

The international experts who have taken part in these assessments have published their methods and arguments in full. Mr McTaggart should equally publish his criticisms in detail so that they can be evaluated, point by point.

We would of course reconsider our policy if fresh evidence pointed to significant hazard arising from these disposal operations; no such evidence has emerged.

Yours faithfully,
L. E. J. ROBERTS, Chairman,
Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive,
AERE Harwell,
Oxfordshire.

Islington finances

From the Deputy Leader of Islington Council

Sir, Lord Harris of Greenwich's attack on Islington Council (feature, August 9) contained a number of glaring errors of fact concerning its support for the *Islington News* co-operative. The co-operative is being given help by the council as a result of a detailed feasibility study that suggested the co-operative would be a sound commercial venture and would create 12 jobs. The *Islington News* will not be a "council newspaper" but an independent publication that will be free to criticise the council and its policies.

Mr George Cunningham, former SDP MP for Islington South and Finsbury, wrote on March 25 to Mr B. H. Skinner, the district auditor for the metropolitan district, asking him to enquire into the *Islington News* co-operative, with special reference to his alleged claim that the local Labour Party had a

representative on the editorial board. Mr Skinner replied on June 21 and told Mr Cunningham that, on the contrary, financial assistance to the co-operative would be made subject to a number of conditions, including one that there would be no political party having representation on the editorial and advisory board of the *Islington News*.

Mr Skinner also quoted a resolution of the council's Employment (Grants and Financial Assistance) Subcommittee of April 18 to the effect that "the subcommittee will not consider applications for financial assistance from organisations with party political affiliations and the Employment and Development Committee be requested to concur with this decision". This is now the policy of the council.

Lord Harris is misinformed about the nature of the grants to the co-operative. The council is giving a grant of £17,000 over the two years towards the cost of premises, which

Universities unable to pull full weight

From Professor J. M. Thomas, FRS

Sir, The authors of the Merrison report on the support of university scientific research, June, 1982, estimated that two thirds of the nation's fundamental research is carried out in the universities. This is a far bigger proportion than in any other country. Yet the amount of money allocated for it is meagre compared to the scale, success and wealth-creating influence of that work.

In 1978-79 the total British university equipment grant was estimated (Merrison report, p23) as £27m, which is less than the annual sums allocated for the same purpose by single, major US scientific companies. It is to be compared with the total UK expenditure on research and development for 1978 of £3,500m, of which the Government provided about half, and with the £40m that Hoechst, the West German pharmaceutical company, has just invested in a new research department in the Massachusetts General Hospital.

In the light of this situation it is ludicrous to claim, as did your leader (August 12) that the dual-support system for university research is breaking down because the universities are "skimping on research". The money is simply not there for the dual-support system to function properly.

In 1974-75 Government expenditure on equipment to the universities was savagely cut. Although some improvement has occurred since, the effects of that cut are still felt; by 1980-81 it had led to an

accumulated deficit on the equipment grant of about £220m. The universities do not have it within their power properly to replace obsolete equipment; still less are they in a position, without outside aid, vigorously to pursue important new developments.

For example, a team of scientists in this university has recently explored a new magnetic resonance technique that is likely to serve several branches of physical science. The equipment needed to exploit it and train new graduates in its use costs £200,000, more than the university can afford to allocate to a single group. It will not be possible, therefore, to develop this work unless the Science and Engineering Research Council provides the bulk of the equipment.

Equipment costs of this magnitude are very common; they are an essential ingredient of modern scientific activity, from anatomy to zoology. Many of these costs should not be met by the SERC, the Government should possess adequate resources to support work and replace facilities that they themselves deem important. It is in the nation's interest that more funds are made available for properly equipping our universities. That was one of the recommendations of the Merrison report.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. THOMAS,
Department of Physical Chemistry,
University of Cambridge,
Lensfield Road,
Cambridge,
August 18.

CDC in Philippines

From the Chairman of the Commonwealth Development Corporation

Sir, CDC's primary aim is to take part in those projects which will be the most effective in raising the standards of living in the underdeveloped parts of the world. Mindanao is very undeveloped and a number of its inhabitants near the starvation line. The oil palm project to which we are committed to lending money will make a significant contribution to the prosperity of that part of Mindanao in which it is situated.

We have taken every conceivable measure to ensure that human rights are respected as far as the workers on the project are concerned. The Lost Command no longer has any role in the security of the estate. We have our own man resident in the area who is monitoring conditions at the project.

The opportunity to get a regular

job with a decent wage has more than the material benefit for those employed. The fact that there is benefit to the country as a whole in the productive use of land which has been largely uncultivated must be in the long-term interests of the Philippines people.

CDC's reputation has been built upon development projects in the agricultural sector which have benefited both the people individually and the economies of the countries in which we operate - and also, incidentally, the British taxpayer.

We have been operating profitably for more than 20 years. Letters such as Tom Clarke's (August 24) do not help either the people of Mindanao or the reputation of CDC. Yours faithfully, KINDERSLEY, Chairman, Commonwealth Development Corporation, 33 Hill Street, W1, August 24.

Body and mind

From Mr Anthony Young

Sir, Your unnecessarily strident editorial, "Physician heal thyself" (August 10) does science an injustice by blaming the failure of modern "orthodox" medicine on the "scientific approach". It is the obsession with the method and the technology with subsequent loss of contact with the patient at a personal level that is at fault, not the "scientific approach" itself.

A great harm will be done if, in our haste to espouse the currently unorthodox, we lose sight of the fundamental scientific principle that the methods and results of any form of therapy must be carefully scrutinized to see if they are effective. Without these checks charlatans will be the ones that benefit, not the patients.

Doctors are cautious of the "unorthodox" because they like first to see proper evidence that these treatments help patients - as I believe many of them do. Surely that caution should be encouraged not denied.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY YOUNG,
The Consulting Rooms,
York House,
199 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1,
August 11.

Athletic hybrid

From Mr P. R. M. Burrows

Sir, Since it looks like a word derived properly from the Greek, "tetrathlon" (letter, August 23) must be, I suppose, marginally less objectionable than the obviously hybrid "quadathlon" used in your report.

Both words are, however, falsely derived from "marathon" in much the same way as that in which my own pet hate "triphobious" is derived from "amphibious".

Why not use the established and acceptable word "tetrathlon" instead of either?

Yours faithfully,
P. R. M. BURROWS,
Malt House,
Kenning,
Kent,
August 23.

the council will own and for which the co-operative will pay rent. A grant of £20,000 to buy printing equipment is being made to the Islington Co-operative Development Agency under section 137 of the Local Government Act, which will leave the equipment to the *Islington News*.

The *Islington News* co-operative is being funded from several sources, including the Government's own small firms loan guarantee scheme. My council's assistance to the co-operative is conditional on a loan from the Government's agency. In the past fall year the council and central Government, under the partnership powers of the Inner Urban Areas Act, have given grants totalling £412,000 to more than 60 local businesses, 15 of them co-operatives.

Yours faithfully,
VALERIE VENESS, Deputy Leader, Islington Council, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1, August 23.

Pieces of silver?

From Mr John George Bull

Sir, The current vogue for offering large financial rewards for information leading to a prosecution appears to be welcomed by the police, particularly in relation to the search for the Brighton child molester.

One wonders if the implications have been fully appreciated. There is a strong possibility that someone who should have given information to the police last week as a public duty will receive a huge reward for his or her procrastination.

Furthermore, in future incidents of this type there will be a temptation for rival witnesses to withhold information until they feel the accumulating bait has reached its peak.

Yours faithfully,
J. BULL,
Flat 20a East,
High Street,
Keynsham,
Bristol, Avon.

Mermaid Theatre sale

From Mr Nicholas Reynolds

Sir, The announcement on your front page (August 12), of the proposed sale of the Mermaid Theatre is distressing.

More than 15 years ago members of staff and I attempted to set up a "Theatre Club" in the City of London School, minutes down the road from Puddle Dock. This was no easy task in a school whose catchment area was the entire commuter belt and a reluctance to stay on after hours to enjoy the opportunities of London's theatres was marked.

Bernard Miles gave us all possible help and encouragement. At the Mermaid we learnt what the art of the theatre really might be. We had high hopes of increasing cooperation between our exciting theatrical neighbour and the City's school.

Today, the move of the school to the muddy hole of the City has not been effected; and the Mermaid is to be sold. How do the City Fathers expect to educate their sons? Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS REYNOLDS, 2 Danube Street, Edinburgh.

Wind of class

From Sir Ronald Preston

Sir, In his amusing article on "Class warfare on the open road" today (August 2), in which he turns a psychoanalytical eye on the names of cars, your Correspondent finds himself plainly snubbed by the origin of the name "Passat". To him it is a "total mystery" to which he adds the gratuitous suggestion that perhaps it is the name "of an expensive resort in the Atlas Mountains known only to the rich Germans".

A glance at a German-English dictionary would have quickly dispelled the mystery for it gives *Passat* as the word in German for "trade wind", a name which could well have been included in the "male macho" list of car names. Yours faithfully, RONALD PRESTON, Beeston Hall, Beeston St Lawrence, Norwich, Norfolk.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
August 25. The Queen was represented by Colonel William Brann (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for County Down) at the funeral of Sir Francis Evans (formerly Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Buenos Aires) which was held in St Patrick's Church, Drumboe, Northern Ireland, this morning.

The Duke of Gloucester is 39 today. A memorial service for Sir George Lewis, who died in the Guards' Chapel, Wellington Barracks, on Thursday, November 3, at noon.

Birthdays today
Mr Kenneth Barnes, 61; Mr Frank J. O'Leary, 70; Major-General N. L. O'Leary, 70; Mr Christopher Isherwood, 79; Sir Ian MacGregor, 61; Professor Brian Macrae, 70; Sir Hugh Parry, 72; Mr Malcolm Pyrah, 70; Miss Alison Steadman, 37; Sir Gerald Thorne, 70; General Sir Jerry Tuzo, 66; the Right Rev. M. P. Wood, 67.

Acup and Lawtenstall Grammar School
Richardson Term begins on August 1. Term ends on December 21. The twentieth anniversary meeting will be held on September 10-11. The main musical production, *Robert and Elizabeth* with Andrew Horsfall and Janet Lancaster in the leading roles, will be presented from November 3 to 7. Heads of school are Darren Bentley and Lesley Jell.

Marriage
Mr H. R. Digby and Mrs S. R. McLean. The marriage took place in London yesterday between Mr Henry Digby, son of the late Hon Robert and Mrs Digby, and Mrs Rosalie McLean, daughter of Major and Mrs Richard Aukin-Turner, of Worlington, Suffolk.

Church news
Appointments
The Rev C. B. Arden, Vicar of St John's, London, will be in residence at the Bishop's Palace, London, on August 26-27. The Rev J. B. Arden, Vicar of St John's, London, will be in residence at the Bishop's Palace, London, on August 28-29. The Rev J. B. Arden, Vicar of St John's, London, will be in residence at the Bishop's Palace, London, on August 30-31.

Latest wills
Actress leaves £65,345
Daphne Heard, whose real name was Mrs Della Barnes, of Clifton, Bristol, the actress who played "Mrs Poo" in the BBC television series *The Man in the Moon*, left estate valued at £65,345 net.

Miss Ethel Margery Turner, of Carrick Hill Crescent, Sheffield, has left estate at £522,339 net. After other debts, she left the residue to be divided between the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Methodist Homes for the Aged and the Artists and the Theatre Council.

John Elsie Emily Goss, of Fitzjames Avenue, Kensington, West London, left estate valued at £117,917 net. Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Cowie, Mrs Flora Margaret Valda, of Earley, Berkshire, £463,781; Dale, Mrs Susan Mary, of Bridge, North Shropshire, £246,200; Doyle, Mr Thomas Francis, of Glenageary, Co. Cork, company director, estate in England, Wales and Irish Republic, £241,207; Haddon, Mrs Catherine Margaret, of Sibberth, Leicestershire, £268,098; Hagger, Mr Cyril, of Melbourn, Cambridgeshire, £203,118; Hendon, Miss Edith Monica, of Cleary-ent-the-Sea, Norfolk, £232,523; Knight, Mr John Beckett, of Bickley, Kent, £265,521; Sammon, Mrs Joyce, of Bevelly, North Yorkshire, £219,380; Florence, of Fownhope, Hereford and Worcester, £316,450; Taylor, Mr Sydney, university lecturer of Reading, Berkshire, £209,383; Thomas, Mrs Edith Annie, of Gower, West Glam., £363,726.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P. C. Clark and Miss V. J. Charters. The engagement is announced between Peter Charles, elder son of Mr and Mrs F. G. Clark, of Streatham, London, and Virginia Jane, younger daughter of the late Hugo Charters, and of Mrs Charters, of The Elms, Subwirth, Selby, Yorkshire.

Mr J. N. Hensley and Miss N. L. Walter. The engagement is announced between John, elder son of Mr and Mrs H. N. Hensley of Langham, Rutland, and Nicole, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Walter, of Zurich, Switzerland.

Mr C. Joseph and Mrs M. Hammond. The marriage will take place shortly in Greece between Costas Joseph and Minnie Hammond.

Mr R. P. Jones, RAC. The engagement is announced between Richard Peter, eldest son of Mr and Mrs P. J. Jones, of Hanley, Worcester, and Philippa Mary, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs A. C. Bruce-Kerr, of Eastbourne, East Sussex.

Mr C. J. Maxwell and Miss E. Davies. The engagement is announced between Christopher James, youngest son of Mr and Mrs A. C. Maxwell, of Peperdy Cottage, Burwood, Oakham, Rutland, and Elaine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Davies, of Stoneleigh, Walsingham, Norfolk.

Captain W. A. Shuttleworth and Mrs M. O. Owen. The engagement is announced between William Ashby Shuttleworth, 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own), son of the late Lieutenant Commander John Ashby Shuttleworth, DL, RN, and of Mrs Shuttleworth, of North Hill, Hibernia, Derbyshire, and Belinda Mary, daughter of Mr John M. Gray, CBE, and Mrs Gray, of Blairlodge, Dundrum, Co. Down.

Herbert and Whitehead. The Rev J. B. Arden, Vicar of St John's, London, will be in residence at the Bishop's Palace, London, on August 26-27. The Rev J. B. Arden, Vicar of St John's, London, will be in residence at the Bishop's Palace, London, on August 28-29. The Rev J. B. Arden, Vicar of St John's, London, will be in residence at the Bishop's Palace, London, on August 30-31.

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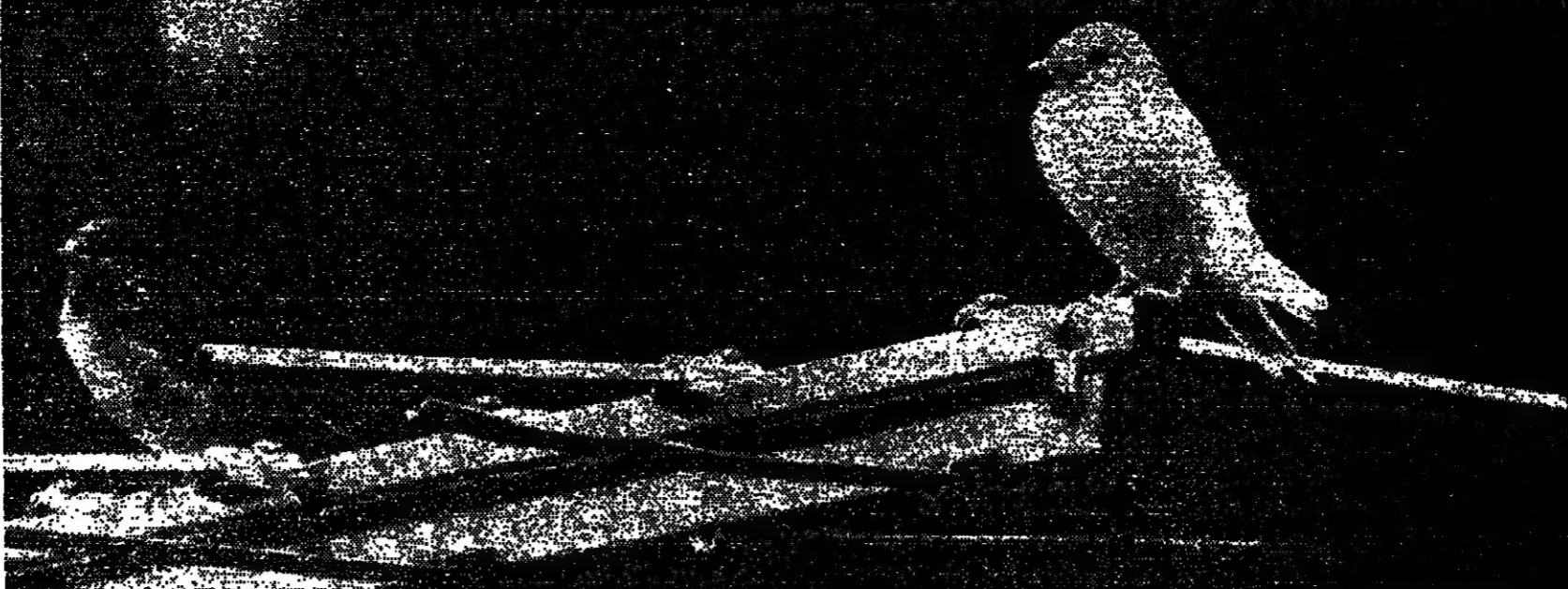
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Rare bird: A young white swallow in a barn at a farm near Ringwood, Hampshire. A pure albino is sufficiently uncommon to interest ornithologists. The Royal Society for Protection of Birds says that there are no accurate statistics, but on average, no more than one sighting a year is reported. Birds with whole or part white plumage tend to be mobbed by their fellows and are conspicuous targets for birds of prey.

Tory clones claim by teachers

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent
The Conservative Party has been caught trying to impose an education policy on its MPs, and the MPs are exposed as "clones", in a survey published today by the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association.

These glimpses into the party's tactics at election time result from a gaffe by Mr Peter Hordern, MP for Horsham. He replied to the association's election questionnaire by sending a photocopied sheet on which he had written: "I agree with these answers."

The sheet was headed, "General Election 1983: Questions of Policy 251; Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association Questionnaire", and bore the imprint, "Printed and Published by Conservative Central Office, 32 Smith Square". It gave Conservative candidates a text for formulating their answers.

The association now understands why 12 other MPs, including Sir Michael Havers and Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, gave exactly the same replies.

"Thirteen MPs were happy to seem to be giving personal replies to a questionnaire sent to them by local electors, when in reality they were parroting answers drafted by an anonymous 'Smith Square scribe', said Mr Peter Smith, the association's deputy general secretary.

Mr Smith writes in the association's magazine *Report*, published today: "How do constituents get to know MPs views as individual parliamentarians representing the people who returned them to Westminster? The answer, in most cases, has to be with great difficulty, if at all."

Identical questionnaires were sent to all candidates. There were 81 replies. None was received from Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, or Mr Bob Dunn, the minister in charge of schools.

More cash and students for polytechnics
Six polytechnics will be rewarded with more money and extra students at the start of the 1984 academic year but three; the City of London Polytechnic and the Central London Polytechnic and Oxford, will lose out badly.

Details, which are being sent to colleges and local authorities today, are contained in today's *Times Higher Education Supplement*. It says the lucky six polytechnics are Bristol, Teesside, Plymouth, Preston, Leicester and North Staffordshire.

The provisional allocation to institutions has been worked out by the national advisory body for local authority higher education and is contained in a confidential note from the Department of Education and Science. It shows that the newer polytechnics are being treated more favourably than the more mature.

The Greater London Council is again preparing to go to court if Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, refuses to allow the council to amend the capital's development plan.

The chairman of the council's planning committee, Mr George Nicholson yesterday accused Mr Jenkin of "acting like a dictator" in trying to prevent the council from making changes to its planning blueprint.

The president of the National Union of Farmers, has told the Minister of Agriculture that EEC agricultural policy plans are highly damaging to the industry and to the national interest.

He wrote that the three United Kingdom farmers' unions accepted the need for the policy to be managed in a cost-effective way and were prepared to see some changes, "but not at the expense of British agriculture."

"If there are to be cuts in CAP expenditure, then the burden of those cuts must be shared equitably, by consumers, food processors, and third country suppliers, as well as farmers," he said.

"Whatever adaptations have to be made to the CAP, it is essential, given the inherent instability of agricultural markets, that effective farm support systems are maintained."

Two of his better known books were *Living the Good Life*, written with his wife in 1954, and his autobiography, *The Making of a Radical*, published in 1972.

Academics concerned by new technology research

By Paul Flather of The Times Higher Education Supplement
The Government is planning to spend more than £100,000 supporting a series of academic research projects to find ways of encouraging the acceptance of new technology.

The initiative has the personal backing of the Prime Minister, and is one of 17 international programmes following the 1982 economic summit at Versailles.

But some academics fear that the projects, to be paid for by the Department of Trade and Industry, could amount to an exercise in opinion management.

The principal objectives of the programme, as laid down by the department, is to formulate lessons for industry and government, "on how to secure greater acceptance of new technologies by developing their positive aspects, and minimizing their negative aspects, from an enhanced understanding of the cultural and organizational determinants of public attitudes."

Acceptance of new technologies at the workplace would be the main, but not the sole focus of the work.

The programme comes after publication in March of a working group report on technology, growth and employment, which suggested that the roots of opposition to new technologies sometimes go beyond technical considerations.

Applications have already been invited from selected research groups in the field for four projects: information technology and the organization; new communications technology and the consumer; comparative national assessments; and historical studies of the problem.

The possible political motivation behind the programme is worrying academics. Mr Alan Day, lecturer in industrial sociology at Oxford University, found it "very disturbing, similar to a Saatchi and Saatchi exercise."

He said: "It seems like an invitation to academics to do a bit of opinion management and there is enough of that around already. Many academics are going to feel uneasy and I am not sure what it will do for the credibility of the SSRC."

Dr Koderick Martin, a sociology lecturer and a fellow of Trinity College, Oxford, said the work would be valuable. "But a research council should be concerned with minimizing error, not minimizing negative aspects," he said.

Dr Cyril Smith, the SSRC secretary, said the contract, only the second substantial contract given to the council by Whitehall, was an important test for the social sciences. He said he was satisfied there was reasonable flexibility in the programme to allow for academic interpretation.

GLC threatens court fight
By Baron Phillips, Property Correspondent
The Greater London Council is again preparing to go to court if Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, refuses to allow the council to amend the capital's development plan.

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"Whatever adaptations have to be made to the CAP, it is essential, given the inherent instability of agricultural markets, that effective farm support systems are maintained."

Paper at fault over 'IRA' man

Newspaper conjecture that a man was a terrorist with IRA links was reasonable but should not have been published as fact, the Press Council ruled today.

The council upheld a complaint by Mr Marius Gerard McLaughlin, a prisoner in Maidstone Prison, that *The Sun* alleged he was one of the most important Provisional IRA organizers in Britain and failed to retract this allegation of a criminal offence.

George Lynn said in *The Sun* that students at Kent University were demanding that McLaughlin, a jailed IRA terrorist, should be allowed to take a major degree course in philosophy but he had been turned down because he could not attend lectures or use the university library. The story said he was serving six years for plotting explosions by supplying the IRA with bomb parts. He was one of the Provisional IRA's most important organizers in Britain.

Mr McLaughlin's solicitors, George E. Baker & Co. of Guildford, complained to the editor that Mr McLaughlin was not an IRA prisoner, was not convicted of IRA membership, and had denied it at his trial.

The prosecution and police had not presented in court a shred of evidence to support the statement that Mr McLaughlin was one of the most important Provisional IRA organizers in Britain. He was known publicly as an organizer for Provisional Sinn Féin, a lawful political party.

Mr Henry Douglas, legal manager of *The Sun*, told the council that Mr McLaughlin denied conspiring to cause explosions, but the court found him guilty. Causing explosions was not a Sinn Féin activity but was a Provisional IRA one.

The Press Council's adjudication was: "The *Sun* was entitled to publish its criticism of a student call for McLaughlin a convicted prisoner, to be allowed to take a Master of Arts course at Kent University. The known facts of his conviction for conspiracy to cause explosions, and his role as a Provisional Sinn Féin organizer, made reasonable the conjecture that he was a terrorist and was linked to the Provisional IRA."

Neither was established as a fact, however, and they should not have been published as such. The complaint against *The Sun* is upheld.

Warning on Channel 4 advertising
By Kenneth Goelling
As hopes rose yesterday for an early settlement of the dispute over fees paid to actors appearing in Channel 4 and TV-am commercials, a leading advertising executive warned the independent television companies that it could be a long time before new revenue is generated.

Both sides in the dispute: Equity, the actors' union, and the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, yesterday held the latest in a series of meetings to put the finishing touches to new proposals to go before a mass meeting of Equity members in London next Thursday. The Equity council will meet early the next week when a final decision is expected.

But Mr Michael Townsin, chairman of Marsteller Advertising, said: "My own view is that the independent television companies have hugely exaggerated the role of the Equity dispute in Channel 4's revenue situation, and it will take a very long time after the dispute is over to build new advertising revenue for the channel."

MR SCOTT NEARING
Mr Scott Nearing, who died on August 24 at his farm in Harborne, Maine, aged 100, was an individualist in the American style. He was well known as a radical and a pacifist in the early part of this century, and in recent years acquired a new following through his advocacy of vegetarianism and organic farming.

He was born into a well-to-do family in Morris Run, Pennsylvania, and after receiving a doctorate in economics from the University of Pennsylvania began an academic career. For some years he was Dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of Toledo in Ohio.

He was outspokenly critical of capitalism and imperialism, including what he called the "dollar diplomacy" of the United States; and at one point was charged with sedition after publishing an anti-war book, *The Great Madness*, though he was eventually acquitted. He joined the Socialist Party, and later the Communist Party, but was expelled from the latter for refusing to alter the manuscript of a book on imperialism.

In 1932 he decided to abandon urban living and moved first to Vermont, and later to Maine. He and his wife, both vegetarians, took up organic farming; and in the 1960s they came to be much in demand as speakers at meetings of young people looking for a new, simpler life-style.

Two of his better known books were *Living the Good Life*, written with his wife in 1954, and his autobiography, *The Making of a Radical*, published in 1972.

OBITUARY MR J. CLEVELAND BELLE

Influence on textile design

Mr James Cleveland Belle, widely regarded in the British fashion and textile industries as the most potent, creative and innovative force of the early post-war years, died on August 21. He was the first director of the first design centre set up in the United Kingdom: the Cotton Board's Colour Design and Style Centre in Manchester in 1940.

A man of wide cultural interests - in the fine arts, in opera, in ballet, and above all in the sphere of international fashion - "Jimmy" Belle's selection generated as much controversy within the textile industry as did the formation of the Design Centre itself. He provoked a sharp reaction from the established Manchester textile design studios with an exhibition of "Designs for Textiles by Fine Artists" - the artists being of the calibre of Graham Sutherland, Henry Moore, Hans Tisdall and John Farthing.

He was also closely associated with the counter Norman Hartnell in the formation of a group which later became the Incorporated Society of London Fashion Designers: Molynoux, Digby Morton, Bianca Mosca, Peter Russell, Victor Stiebel of Jacquard, Worth, and later Hardy Amies. At a time when the British textile and fashion industries were constrained by wartime restrictions, this initiative encouraged the British development of a "sport only" style which formed the basis of the Society's first collection to be shown in South America in 1941.

When the utility scheme was introduced, Belle played a distinctive background role in the encouragement of high design standards in textiles and the use by wholesale fashion houses of couture talent to style their utility ranges on sale to the public.

In helping to stimulate the textile and fashion content of the "British Can Make It" exhibition in 1946, Belle's influence on the commercial products of the textile industry in the 1940s and 1950s was outstanding; never more so than in his role as adviser to Horrocks Fashions, of which he later became a director. Few who lived through this period will not remember the translation of the washable cotton dress to the status of high fashion.

His especially commissioned textile designs ranged from a unique group of inter-related prints by Alastair Morton, the distinguished weaver, to those of talented graduates of the recently re-formed Royal College of Art. The fact that Horrocks' trio of talented fashion designers who made up the designs on paper before they were produced on cloth was an innovation in a fashion house, of the first magnitude.

Belle's talent for friendship was warm and wide. He relinquished the directorship of the Centre in 1950 to concentrate on his many London commitments, but there and elsewhere people could continue to call on his wisdom, advice and active support.

The Cotton Board played a unique role from 1940 to the late 1960s. It devised many different techniques for drawing attention to the excellence at all levels of design, production, presentation and publicity, setting standards which others have made common currency.

Belle was an Honorary Fellow of the Society of Industrial Artists, and was awarded the bi-centenary medal of the Royal Society of Arts in 1960 for promoting art and design in British industry.

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MR SCOTT NEARING
Mr Scott Nearing, who died on August 24 at his farm in Harborne, Maine, aged 100, was an individualist in the American style. He was well known as a radical and a pacifist in the early part of this century, and in recent years acquired a new following through his advocacy of vegetarianism and organic farming.

He was born into a well-to-do family in Morris Run, Pennsylvania, and after receiving a doctorate in economics from the University of Pennsylvania began an academic career. For some years he was Dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of Toledo in Ohio.

THE ARTS

Cinema: David Robinson in London and Geoff Brown in Edinburgh

Savage and elusive study of cultural oppositions

Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence (15)
Camden Plaza; ABC
Shaftesbury AvenueLords of Discipline (15)
Plaza 2

Sir Laurence Van der Post calls Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence "this great and deeply moving film, the only war film I have seen that penetrates deep into the origins and meaning of war"; and, since Sir Laurence wrote the original stories on which the film is based and (according to the credited script writer) worked on early versions of the scenario, he should know what he is talking about. Nevertheless he does rather overstate the case, and it might be fair to question whether the film is concerned with the origins and meaning of war at all, except to the extent that those origins reside in the cultural differences between peoples, which seem much more what the film is about.

Nagisa Oshima's films, but especially *The Ceremony* and *Empire of the Senses*, have all looked critically at Japanese character, society and traditions and the dangers of national preoccupation with death, with archaic codes of honour, with a jealous, hermetic, debilitating sense of racial identity. *Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence*, based on Van der Post's novel *The Seed and the Sower*, intervenes with the stories *A Bar of Shadow* and *The Sword and the Doll*, shows the Japanese in confrontation with people and ways of the West.

The setting is a prisoner-of-war camp in Java in 1942. The four main characters are neatly placed in quadrilateral opposition. On the Japanese side are the camp commandant, Captain Yonoi (Ryuichi Sakamoto), and his sergeant, Hara (Takashi). Their English-speaking captives are Major Celliers (David Bowie) and Colonel Lawrence (Tom Conti), who was the first-person narrator of the original Van der Post books. Bridging the gulf of nationality, war, language and culture are spiritual and human connections.

From first sight, Captain Yonoi recognizes both a spiri-

mal and physical attraction to Celliers: the two young men share the same kind of purity and intransigence, and also a sense of guilt. Celliers is haunted by a boyhood betrayal of his young brother, Yonoi is away from Japan at the time of an officers' revolt, before the war, and feels he deserted the comrades who were executed for their part in it. Older, and more resigned to life's demands for compromise, Lawrence and Hara find simpler and more human points of contact. Lawrence speaks Japanese and so is able to communicate in language if not in sentiment. Hara from time to time succumbs to human frailties like getting drunk, making jokes and committing acts of kindness as well as cruelty.

The quadrangle offers a valid premise from which to explore the confrontation of opposing philosophies and wills and the human attractions which can remain stronger than national conflicts. In the event, though, the exploration is confused by an excess of incident - beatings, cruelties, flirts, humiliations, challenges between captives and captor that look like the conventional stuff of POW drama. The sexual origins of Captain Yonoi's curiosity about Celliers, too, now seem under-rated to the point of mystery.

Oshima clearly first intended something far more open. We are prepared for the theme: the opening scene is the punishment of a Korean guard for having sexual relations with a young Dutch prisoner. It is evident again later in one of the most striking scenes of the film: Yonoi is submitting the whole camp to exceptional brutality, when Celliers breaks out of the ranks to embrace and kiss him. Yonoi swoons at the shock and shame. Between these points, though, the theme is fudged and evaded, explained away in terms of vague spiritual sympathy or laughed off in the embarrassed English way ("You know I think he's taken a shine to you").

The film is about cultural oppositions, and ironically cultural difference and confusion have, in the end, fogged the sense of it. Oshima worked with an English script writer, Paul Mayersberg, who talks about their collaboration in an interview published in a new magazine which the British Film Institute has connected out of its old and useful *Monthly Film Bulletin*. Mayersberg describes how he found the Japanese style of scripting was to use a succession of separate short scenes "where we would run them together", and how for the scenes involving the



Celliers (David Bowie) challenges Yonoi (Ryuichi Sakamoto) over the threatened execution of the British C.O. (Jack Thompson)

western characters he decided to "westernize" the script. It is hard to say whether this was a good idea: certainly the film now - surprisingly for Oshima - lacks any distinctive style, western or eastern.

Bowie as actor is at the best of times unpredictable, clearly always in need of confident direction. This character is a

chameleon, responding conscientiously to the needs of the moment (when Yonoi calls him "an evil spirit" he instantly leaps into that role, for instance) but never presenting a clear and consistent face on which we can fix Yonoi's yearning. The mysteries of the role are compounded by a peculiar and somewhat embarrassing little

mime entertainment he lays on for his Japanese prison guards for no very discernible dramatic purpose. The professional attack and bribe of Tom Conti's Lawrence only add to the shadows surrounding Bowie's role.

Oshima has always expressed a preference for using non-professional actors, which - apart from the obvious commercial advantages - may explain his choice of Bowie, Ryuichi Sakamoto, a slightly built and beautiful rock musician who is Japan's equivalent to David Bowie, and Takashi, a thick-set and irreverent stand-up comedian with a tremendous following in Japan, give to a western audience the most impressive performances in the film. Of course it may be different in Japan (where the film is a huge box-office success: the audience is unaccustomed to war films which show the enemy at close quarters); it is said that the public complaints of Sakamoto's mood and mumbled diction, and falls into paroxysms of inappropriate laughter at Takashi's every move.

Lords of Discipline offers us an American equivalent to the peculiar combinations of brutality and superstitious ritual that make part of the Samurai code. Based upon a partly autobiographical novel by Pat Conroy, it is located in a fictitious but not wholly fantastic military academy in Caroli-

na in 1964. The hymn-singing is lusty, the discipline is killing and the zeal to root out racist and class impurities would do justice to the Hitler Youth.

Young Will (David Keith), with a greater sense of individuality and justice than his fellow cadets, begins to question the myth of honour above all when he discovers the existence of a hereditary secret Klan within the school, dedicated to exterminating undesirables and in particular a black boy who has fearlessly defied the WASP traditions of the place.

The first Hollywood film directed by Franc Roddam, the British director of *Quadrophonia*, it is professionally made, gripping in narrative and very unpleasant. Grasping for the best of all worlds, it offers the audience a feast of sadistic thrills, while encouraging them to self-righteous disapproval of the perpetrators. The film is presumably only one of a series we must now anticipate following the success of *An Officer and a Gentleman* - from which the excellent leading actor, David Keith, is inherited. He has very able character support from the stage veteran Robert Prosky and a cold-eyed villain, G. D. Spradlin, who is in private life an oil millionaire with an urge and talent to act. It is a curious footnote that the film was partly shot at Sandhurst after American military schools refused to allow their premises to be used for it.

Samuel Fuller's four-legged time-bomb

It is hardly tea-shirt weather in Edinburgh, but they are being worn just the same - the red ones scream "Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence" (Oshima's film opened the festival last Saturday), the black ones shout "The Oshima Gang". Oshima double-bills dominate the afternoon schedule, despite the colour print that has faded away to the lines of a tired lobster, the films have provided much stimulation, taking us back to the Japanese director's beginnings in the early Sixties when he plunged local audiences into provocative stories of social turmoil and welded the Cinemascope frame like a clenched fist.

But the festival's undoubted highlight so far has been Samuel Fuller's magnificent *White Dog*, mostly hidden away by its bemused American distributor, Paramount, since completion in 1981 (though it has since surfaced successfully in France). Paramount's perplexity was primarily caused by its subject-matter (derived from a story by Roman Gary): how do you market a film about a German shepherd trained by bigots to attack Blacks and successfully avoid controversy? Yet the true provocation of Fuller's film lies

not in its material (clearly anti-racist) but in its style. Fuller declares his allegiance to the most basic of cinematic tools: the intense close-up, the editing cut that yokes together contrasting viewpoints.

White Dog tosses us back and forth between the dog's fierce stare, the implacable eyes of the black animal trainer attempting the dog's re-education and a cheezy, dangled as bait; the simple technique generates immense emotional power. Fuller also pulls off several virtuoso thriller sequences, outlandishly concluding one of the dog's attacks with an out-of-camera snuffing before a church stained-glass window representing St Francis. The script occasionally lags behind, though the right note of journalistic urgency is struck by the boyhood of the dog's amazed new owner: "Come on, Julie, you've got a four-legged time-bomb!" Edinburgh is the ideal place for the film's British unveiling - in 1969, the film festival's Fuller retrospective spearheaded European appreciation of this dynamite cinema primitive.

Documentaries and independent films abound here; quality, as expected, seeps hour by hour. Friedhelm Brückner's

explorations into the world's remotest corners present a varied spectacle. In *Amakusa* (1979), his intrepid crew visit an isolated Indonesian tribe with pleasant gifts of friendship and medicine; also, they also bring the dreaded zoom lens. In *Spitz*, made three years later, the camera's prancing are happily kept to a minimum: the modest lives of monks and farmers from the western Himalayas are relayed with uncluttered force and much scenic beauty.

The battle-scarred actor Sterling Hayden, subject of the documentary portrait *Pharos of Chaos*, looks from the Himalayas himself: bearded, clothed in sackcloth and sandals, with a mind half-lost in its own personal universe. Two young German film-makers, Wolf-Eckart Böhrer and Manfred Blank, visit Hayden's riverboat in France and record his ramblings on drink, his Hollywood career and his craven appearance before the Un-American Activities Committee. Once one edits out the interrogative noises, the repetitions and anecdotal cul-de-sacs, there is fascinating substance in Hayden's words; we have to do the editing ourselves, however, as the film-makers seem even more dishevelled than their subject.

Theatre

Unpleasantly promising start

The Killing of Mr Toad
King's Head

The wistful charm of *The Wind in the Willows* suggests that it was a dream world into which the author, Kenneth Grahame, needed to escape. David Gooderson's play shows us what he was escaping from: marriage at 40 to a powerful lady called Elspeth after a grotesquely winsome courtship, a brief consummation on what they called the "poppyratoon", a long decline into lovelessness and withdrawal and anxiety over their only son Alastair's sickness and inadequacy.

Dreaming of Mole, Ratty and Badger after her husband's death, Elspeth (Deborah Norton) murmurs that they are so like him. Toad is the exception; surprisingly enough, Toad was Alastair. Instead of the testy

middle-aged playboy of the E. H. Shepherd drawings, Rupert Graves bounds on and fills the stage with pop-eyed youthful effervescence.

So his death and not his father's is the play's subject. Half-blind from birth, mother-smothered and worshipped as a genius, bribed for love by both parents separately, he found the outside world a nasty shock - Rugby and Eton were torture, he repeatedly failed elementary exams at Oxford and met his death at 20 under a train.

But, apart from ominous suggestions of a childhood death-wish, the tragedy unfolds very late in the evening. Most of the time Alastair is bouncing insufferably about while Old Inferiority, as he calls his father (Robert Austin), broods unaccountably or switches to his other self as Mole for an "Oh my, oh my" or two with John Warner's Ratty (also doubling as Quiller-Couch). Most excru-

ciating of all are the song interludes, retelling the words of Toad ditties or music-hall favourites to make obvious, overstated comments about the home situation and eliciting performances to match. A family calling themselves Minkie, Dino and Mouse hardly need it.

It is an unsuccessful and generally unpleasant piece, but still a promising debut for Mr Gooderson, who is sometimes a clever and interesting writer. Especially in the widowed Elspeth's solo opening scene: Miss Norton stifles her voice and movements to elderly gruffness with inimitable skill, barking at the postman, grumbling about the price of salmon and dumping her feet in a bowl of water before settling down to read advice from a spiritualist friend about contacting her two men on the other side. Laurie Dennett's set gives her a dingy conservative living-room whose



Deborah Norton: inimitable skill

parquet-pattern lino and dim watercolours have a mustiness you can practically smell.

Anthony Masters

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

LSO/Abbado
Usher Hall

Down at the Botanic Garden, they are playing the whole *Ring* in the Solti recording, down to dusk, to audiences of contemplatives seated in a circle round a pyramid of mirrors. Within the official festival Wagner's centenary was a little more modestly celebrated on Wednesday in a concert by the London Symphony Orchestra under Claudio Abbado, beginning less than happily with a witty performance of the Italian-composed *Faust Overture* and ending most oddly with the middle act of *Lohengrin*.

This unaccompanied choice brought us Siegfried Jerusalem for scarcely more than five minutes as a young hero of unwavering voice, but it did allow more opportunity to admire the Telemann of Harman Wellmer, expressively alert and musical, if not always able to ride the LSO's forceful accompaniment of his sour grapes. The two ladies were cross-dressed. Rosalind Flower-right as Elsa in black and Eva Randova as Otrud in white, which seemed significant, for it was Miss Flowerright who displayed the more awesome lower register while Miss Randova was all sweetness and light at the top.

However, an enterprise as

cock-eyed as this is not a fair trial of anybody's ability to sing Wagner, and the most dynamic moment came from the orchestra and chorus. The LSO were vigorous in their punctuation of the opening dialogue and made majestic noises later in the act underneath colossal imposing work again, as at Sunday's concert, from the Edinburgh Festival Chorus trained by John Cunniff.

Wagner's companion on this programme was Webern, wisely represented at his loudest by the Six Orchestral Pieces, Op 6, though in the reduced scoring. Mr Abbado presented them as a funeral march wreathed in flowers. All vehemence was rightly suppressed except for a snarling snarl from the brass at the culmination of the march, followed by the percussion in a frenzy of battering. Otherwise the emphasis was on delicacy of phrasing, from solo wind particularly, and perfection of sound, though through it all came too the cold ferocity of the young Webern as seen in a remarkable portrait by Max Oppenheimer included in the Vienna 1900 exhibition.

So far the only music entirely unrelated to the festival's Viennese theme has come in the morning recitals, the first three of which have all included music by Debussy. On Tuesday was the first of his String Quartet, given a purposely unsuspicious account by the

Delmé Quartet, as if perhaps to merit it a place in the Viennese tradition. Textures were clear and forward, but not sparkling or clever; themes were played in the conversational manner of normal chamber music, not refined into super-exquisite.

The Delmé also included a rarity, Caple's *Musique fantastique* on Poe's *Macabre of the Red Death* with solo harp (John Marston). For as long as I have known of this piece, I have been intrigued. I am intrigued no longer.

Paul Griffiths

Melos Quartet of Stuttgart
Queen's Hall

The Edinburgh Festival's rediscovery of Zemlinsky took another brave step forward yesterday morning when the Melos Quartet from Stuttgart played the third of his four quartets. Composed in 1924, the piece belongs very much to the same period as *The Dwarf*, seen earlier in the week, and like that opens it is a tale of beauty and the beast.

Each of the four movements includes grotesque, stumbling little ideas or pusillanimous ostinatos along with long melodies that may dance in the sunlight of a clear tonality but

are themselves sublimely free from the shackles of key. Often it turns out too, as it does in Zemlinsky's Second Quartet, that the crabbed motif and the airy line are drawn out of the same pattern of note: beauty and the beast are one.

That lesson comes over most forcibly in the second movement, a set of variations that begins as a gypsy scherzo but reaches a much sicker, warmer feeling before the carpet is pulled away again and we are left with a low second violin sounding over a mechanical accompaniment in desolation close to Shostakovich's.

There is a similar moment in the finale, entitled "Burlesk" and sometimes cleft by the irony Mahler associated with this title. But, whatever the links with other composers, this quartet lives in its own world of silvery shadows, and clearly it is a world in which the Melos feel quite at home: disquiet and trepidation were qualities only of the composition.

In Mozart's fugue-finished G major Quartet and Schumann's A major they seemed rather to be taking the music back to their place, where the conveniences included supreme confidence, strong inner parts and unquestionable phrasing, but not much of Mozart's levity or Schumann's faintness of spirit.

Paul Griffiths

Concerts in London

Northern Sinfonia/
Knussen/Fischer
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Robert Saxton's *The Ring of Eternity*, which was given its first performance at Wednesday's concert, was commissioned not by the BBC but by Oliver Knussen, who conducted it. It is a most beautifully realized vision, suggested by the first lines of Henry Vaughan's poem *The World*: "I saw Eternity the other night/Like a great Ring of endless light..." Saxton says he has attempted to translate the details of Vaughan's opening lines into sound, but on a first hearing I was less aware of any literal equivalences than of a piercingly well-imagined panoply of sound, strikingly clear in outline.

The image of a ring seems less apt to describe what happens than that of antiphonal exchange: from the initial laying-out of piano, trumpet solo and wind chorus over strings, the impetus is continually shifted between the string group and the wind group. Sweeping figurations accumulate power through close imitation (though the effect is not the hypnotic one of Ligeti's similar procedure but that of a positive, dramatic unfurling of each idea), and much play is made with an ecstatic, trill-like passage of this kind.

Over this antiphony are single-line passages for the tuned percussion, and important, strident duets for the pairs of horns and trumpets: in an impressive moment just before the final climax, trumpets announce a rising theme in unison which is then split up with horns and drums added as if Vaughan's endless light were suddenly seen through a prism. The kaleidoscopic build-up of sound is then maintained until the last moment, though the effect of the sudden close is not to prolong the vision into eternity but to snatch it rudely from our eyes.

Oliver Knussen conducted a firm, coherent account of the score. The remainder of the concert, conducted by Ivan Fischer, was desperately undistinguished. In Imogen Cooper's account of Mozart's F major Piano Concerto, K459, there were many points of admirable musicianship, but her discursive playing had no sharp focus and she was continually undermined - as were Stravinsky and Beethoven elsewhere in the evening - by Fischer's crashingly obvious direction.

Nicholas Kenyon

Vasary/Hirst/
Langridge
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Janáček has made his last appearance at this year's South Bank Summer Music, and with him the spirit of Kamila Stösslova, the woman behind both the *Voces* and the Second String Quartet.

On Wednesday she appeared as Zefka the gypsy girl, in a

performance of the *Diary of One who Disappeared* by Philip Langridge. Linda Hirst and Tamas Vasary which was utterly compelling in its fusion of meticulous, minutely observed detail and vibrant unpredictability.

It was a pity that the opportunity was missed to exploit the hall's facilities and grant for once Janáček's wish that this drama of dream, seduction and surrender "be sung in semi-darkness, if possible with reddish lighting"; and a pity, too, that the performers did not risk even longer, more eloquent pauses at crucial dramatic points.

But this was a performance of subtly flickering, volatile emotions, rather than of overtly dramatic strokes: in Mr Langridge's voice, passion would quiver through a portamento, tenderness blend into harmonic change, and muscle flex to the full only to carry the force of Janáček's arching "melodic curves of speech", as in his final fierce and resilient top C.

Linda Hirst's was a strange and strong-edged vocal characterization, with the three off-stage voices (Sarah Leonard, Judith Rees and Joyce Jarvis) providing, in their perfectly judged acoustic balance, a haunting distancing right at the drama's heart.

Dialogue, reflection and undercurrent were indivisibly shared in Mr Vasary's piano playing.

Hilary Finch

Television
Complex
frights

Walter Cronkite, who looks very much like a contemporary version of Big Brother, presented 1964 (BBC1) with that heavily portentous tone which seems typical of American television journalists. He also had his own brand of newsmanship: "Fame came late to George Orwell... What kind of man gave shapes and names to the darkest fears of our age? Certainly a complex man...". And so he went on, adding the usual litany of bad news: Khmeri, Afghanistan, computer banks and torture in South America. Then his own computer produced from the photograph of six dictators a composite portrait of the Orwellian tyrant; the result was the face of a Mexican bandit. We need not fear computers as long as they show no signs of imagination.

As is often the case with American programmes which attempt to deal with some important issue, it was interesting only for the frightful light which it cast upon contemporary American society. There are now a range of ingenious phrases, for example, which shield bureaucrats from ordinary life. An explosion is referred to as an "energetic disassembly" - one is no longer scared but "seduced" or "delivered". This was a programme, however, to be unswitched or derailed.

The sight of the Public Records Office, in Secret (BBC 1), would have kept Orwellian content for days: here was the next best thing to a Ministry of Truth. Christmas cards sent by M15 officers in 1918 are still classified as secret: perhaps the idea of a "seasonal message" sounded sinister. And researchers have only just been given access to a dusty confidential file, only to discover that it contained a synopsis from the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

The programme attempted, in what was apparently supposed to be a jocular manner, to investigate the general secretiveness of British society and suggested, quite rightly, that most officials enjoy the experience of being entrusted with "confidential" information. It gives them something not to talk about. It seems, by the way, that civil servants really do hang net curtains at the windows of their offices: they are the Brighton landladies of government.

Peter Ackroyd

● The Haifa Municipal Theatre presentation of *The Soul of a Jew*, reviewed on Wednesday by Irving Wardle in Edinburgh, is to play at Riverside Studios from next Monday to Thursday.

CATE
CINEMA NOTTINGHILL
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RUNNERS
FINAL WEEK-END WEEK
CATE SLOMBURY
21.02.202 63/117

● ANOTHER TIME
ANOTHER PLACE

● The Ploughman's
Lunch

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493/2021

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Paul Griffiths

Investment and Finance

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 717.4 up 0.8
FT 100: 79.71 up 0.8
FT All Share: 456.14 up 1.82
Birmingham: 19.701
Datastream USM Leaders
Index: 100 up 0.73
New York: Dow Jones
Average (latest): 1181.71
down 2.54
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones
Index: 8143.07 down 4.27
Hong Kong: Hang Seng
Index: 981.91 down 0.27
Amsterdam: 145.8 down 2.9
Sydney: AO Index: 697.7
down 10.7
Frankfurt: Commerzbank
Index: 933.30 down 3.20
Brussels: General Index
133.45 down 0.42
Paris: CAC Index: 137.7 up
0.3
Zurich: SKA General Index
285.2 down 0.5

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.5080 down 1.1
cents
Index 84.7 down 0.9
DM 3.9750
FF 11.9750
Yen 368.50
Dollar
Index 127.6 up 0.1
DM 2.8985
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.5030
INTERNATIONAL
ECU \$0.570857
SDR \$0.692933

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9%
Finance houses base rates 10
Discount market loans week
fixed 9% 9%
3 month interbank 9% 9%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9% 10
3 month DM 5% 5%
3 month FF 15% 14%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9%
Treasury long bond 103%
103%
ECB Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for
interest period July 6 to August
2, 1983 inclusive: 9.988 per
cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$422.50 pm \$423.25
close \$423.50 \$280-280.75
unchanged
New York latest: \$423.25
Krugerrand (per coin):
\$436-437.50 (\$289-290)
Sovereigns (new):
\$99.75-100.75 (\$66-66.75)
*Excludes VAT

TODAY

Intermar: Marlin Black, L. M.
Ericsson, Exeter Building and
Construction, Investment Trust
of Guernsey, Miss World
Group, Scottish Northern In-
vest, Wagon Finance, Ward
Holdings.
Finals: Highgate & Job,
Raybeck.
Economic statistics: None
announced.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Davenport Knitwear, Allen
House, Newark Street, Liver-
pool (11.30)
Lennon Group, Lord Daresbury
Hotel, Daresbury, Warrington,
Cheshire (noon)
Cumberland Road, Off Honey-
pot Lane, NW9 (11.30)
Sagomans Group, 185 St
Vincent Street, Glasgow
(12.00)

Trade figures
hit sterling

Sterling was under sporadic pressure in the foreign exchange markets yesterday because of the poor July trade figures and recent gloomy forecasts for the economy.
Market trading was thin as sterling fell 1.1 cents against the dollar and closed at \$1.5080. Against the German mark, the pound fell below DM4, closing 3.5 pence lower on the day at DM3.9750, and it lost 10 centimes against the French franc to FF11.9750.
The pound's trade-weighted value against a basket of currencies ended the day 0.9 lower at 84.7.
The dollar was on the sidelines after its volatile movements of recent weeks but ended fractionally higher against the mark at DM2.6365 - up 15 points.
● **Luxembourg** International finance is raising a DM75m (£19m), seven-year Eurobond with a yield of 9 per cent, market sources have reported. The bond is priced at par.

Battle for games manufacturer is not over, says BPCC chief

Waddington beats off Maxwell as institutions switch allegiance

An about-turn by three institutional shareholders yesterday snatched an expected victory from Mr Robert Maxwell in his battle for control of John Waddington, the Monopoly games manufacturer.
The three institutions withdrew their acceptances of the £18m bid from Mr Maxwell's British Printing and Communication Corporation at the eleventh hour. News of the about-turn came as Mr Maxwell was ready to declare that he had received more than 90 per cent acceptances and the bid was therefore unconditional.
The three institutions withdrew their support for 5.5 per cent of Waddington's shares. This holding, together with the support already promised to the

Waddington board from holders of 46.2 per cent makes it impossible for Mr Maxwell to declare his offer unconditional.
The most significant change of heart came when the Norwich Union insurance group, which has 4.4 per cent stake, responded to a direct appeal from the Waddington chairman, Mr Victor Watson, and managing director Mr David Perry.
The other about-turns came from the Scottish Amicable life insurance company, which has about 0.9 per cent of the shares, and a smaller holder with 0.2 per cent.

Mr Maxwell said: "I regret the withdrawal of acceptances which presumably is largely due to people who accepted the cash offer of 245p which they would receive in several weeks time if the offer goes unconditional. By withdrawing they can get a higher price in the market. It is possible that purchasers in the market will accept the BPCC offer."

But Kleinwort Benson, Waddington's advisers, said that it was merely a change of allegiance after a re-appraisal by the shareholders of the company's prospects.

Mr Maxwell added: "I have had several Waddington's shareholders complain that they had up to eight telephone calls from the company urging them

to withdraw their acceptances. This borders on harassment." Mr Maxwell's advisers will now lobby hard to get some of the pro-Waddington board shareholders to change their minds.
Kleinwort said that Mr Maxwell had no new information to give shareholders, he could not make a new offer under the Takeover Panel's rules and the cash offer had already closed.
But the firm admitted that although the battle had "taken a fundamental turn", the fight was not yet over.

Waddington has enjoyed the support of two big shareholders, Britannic Assurance and M&G, which account for about a fifth of the shares.

Rescue deal for Capper-Neill

By Michael Priest
An Arab construction company and British banks have organized a major capital reconstruction of Capper-Neill, a leading manufacturer of process plant, to save the company from an unexpected threat of bankruptcy. But most of the Capper-Neill board, including Mr William Capper, the chairman, will leave the company.

Capper-Neill, of St Helens, discussed yesterday that for the year to the end of March it had made a pre-tax loss of £3.1m after making pre-tax profit of £2.7m last year.
The company has also had to make extraordinary debts of £20.8m. It lost £700,000 in the first half. The shares fell 1p to 16 1/2p, which notionally capitalizes the company at £15m.
The rescue has been organized by Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, which was called in last February after it became clear that Capper-Neill's financial position had deteriorated.
At the end of March share-



Capper resigns with most of his board

holders' funds stood at just £6m, including a property revaluation of £3.7m, while borrowings were £27.4m. Turnover fell from £108 to £83.4m.

Under the reconstruction, Consolidated Contractors, (CCC) a company of Lebanese origin, based in Aden, will pay £4.3m to buy 41.3m new shares in Capper-Neill at par. This will give them a 58.9 per cent share in Capper.

CCC will also have an option for 10 years to buy another 8.7m shares at par, and has agreed to make a £1.87m secured loan to Capper-Neill, bringing its total injection to £6m.

The balance sheet will also be strengthened by the banks converting £7m of the existing overdraft into 7m redeemable preference shares of £1 each. These will not carry a dividend for the first two years but will have coupons of 8 per cent in the third and fourth years and 10 per cent in later years.

The banks have undertaken to convert £14m of the overdraft into a £14m secured loan over 10 years.
Capper-Neill has big construction interests in the Middle East and it is understood that disagreements over the company's title to contracts and to the amount from these contracts led to some of the extraordinary debts.
CCC's major construction firm in the Middle East, and has won contracts in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

BSR back in profit as debts decline

By Andrew Cornelius

BSR International, the audio, electronic and kitchenware group, is back in profit at the interim stage after its make-or-buy capital reconstruction this year.

Mr Bill Wylie, chairman, who masterminded the £20m cash call which made the refinancing possible, yesterday reported pre-tax profits of £6.2m for the six months ending June 30, against losses of £1.8m at the same stage last year and losses of £1.5m for 1982.

Mr Wylie said at BSR's new corporate headquarters in Hongkong that he is looking for a further significant improvement in profits during the second half of the year. An indication of the board's confidence in progress is the promise to recommend payment of a final dividend of at least 1.5p this year.

The refinancing helped cut short-term debts from £42m at

the end of December, 1982, to £2.8m today. Total group debt has fallen from £107m after the rights issue in March.

The interim results include the £1m costs associated with the closure of a loss making Capetronics electronics factory in the US, and losses of £800,000 from BSR's British operations, which employ 4,000 people in the West Midlands.

The British audio and kitchenware businesses should be trading in the black by the end of the year.

An important part of the group's strategy in Britain is to switch production to new growth areas.

Mr Wylie said that there will be further rationalization and divestment of activities within the group, but no redundancies are planned in Britain.

BSR's shares rose by 10p to 178p.

Blue Circle dividend disappoints market

By Jeremy Warner

Blue Circle Industries, Britain's biggest cement producer, yesterday reported a small fall in pre-tax profits for the first half of this year.

But Mr Gordon Marshall, deputy managing director, expects better results for the remainder of the year in Britain. Overseas, the group should benefit from its recent North American acquisition while Latin American countries are beginning to show marginal improvements after the rock bottom results in the second half of last year.

Pre-tax profits fell from £51.5m to £48.2m. The group has adopted a new method of accounting for depreciation and the comparable figure has been restated as a result.

Blue Circle Industries
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pre-tax profit £48.2m (254.8m)
Share earnings 26.5p (31p)
Turnover £408.6m (376.7m)
Net interim dividend 6p (same)
Share price 481p down 15p Yield 6%

The profits fell short of stock market expectations and the shares in the FT 30 share index fell 15p to 431p. The unchanged interim dividend of 6p also caused some disappointment.

Improvement in Britain is expected to be maintained in the second half when domestic profits will also benefit from a full six-month contribution from Aberthaw, bought last March for £26m, the conversion of the Northfleet and Sheerness cement works to a more energy efficient process, and other cost cutting measures.

IN BRIEF
Bigger stake for Holmes a Court

Mr Robert Holmes a Court, the Australian financier, has increased his holdings in Fleet Holdings, the Express Newspapers group, from 3 per cent to 4.2 per cent, he confirmed in London yesterday. Mr Holmes a Court continues to make no comment on whether he wants to bid for Fleet in addition to his present offer for Australia's largest company, Broken Hill Proprietary. He said he is satisfied with his holding at present "but in 10 minutes time I may not be".

● **Leo Refrigeration** reported half-term profits yesterday of £2.01m - nearly double last year's disappointing interim of £1.1m. Shares rose on the figures from 250p to 280p - a new high.

Turnover was up from £20.28m to £21.98m and earnings per share doubled from 13.18p to 25.69p. The charges went up from £310.0m to £518.000.

● **Carpet International** returned to the black for the first time in four years during the first half of 1983. On sales down from £54.4m to £40.7m, pre-tax losses of nearly £3m were turned into profits of £790,000.

● **Nigeria** said it will not support a move to raise the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries benchmark price of \$29 a barrel, and would prefer to increase its production.

Surge in leading shares

WALL STREET

New York, (Reuters) - The Wall Street stock market yesterday began higher, but turned mixed as blue chip issues outperformed secondary stocks.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which fell nearly 19 points on Tuesday and Wednesday, was up about 2.23 points to 1186.48.

In the broader market, declining issues were ahead of gainers about four to three.

International Business Machines 1 1/8 to 115 3/8; General Electric fell 1/2 to 47; General Motors fell 1/8 to 66 3/4.

Dupont fell 1/8 to 52; Lockheed fell 3/8 to 103.
General Dynamics fell 2 5/8 to 46 1/8; Eastman Kodak fell 1/8 to 67 3/8; Delta Airlines fell 1/8 to 30 and Minnesota Mining fell 1/8 to 79.

NCR was 112 7/8, up 1 7/8; Raytheon at 47 1/2 was down 7/8; Mead Corporation was unchanged at 33; Colson at 34 5/8 was down 1 1/8; Exxon at 37 7/8 was unchanged; Allied Corporation at 50 was up 1/8.

Trade Development Bank Holding S.A.

Luxembourg

Announcement to Shareholders

Approval was given at the General Meeting of Shareholders of Trade Development Bank Holding S.A. ("TDBH") held on August 25, 1983 for all items on the agenda, including a distribution - for each 100 TDBH shares outstanding - of a dividend consisting of US\$ 800 in cash, 27* American Express Company ("Amexco") common shares, and 10 warrants to purchase 20* Amexco common shares at US\$ 27.50 per share.

The following should be considered by shareholders who have TDBH shares in bearer form:

1. As from the distribution date (August 29, 1983) each shareholder should present coupons 12, 13 and 14 of his TDBH shares either directly to one of the paying agents mentioned herebelow, or request his own bank to do so on his behalf. Coupons 12 will be exchanged for cash in US\$, coupons 13 for Amexco common shares, and coupons 14 for Amexco warrants.

2. Upon presentation of coupons 13 and 14 the paying agents will acknowledge to the shareholder his right to the appropriate number of shares and warrants, and, in accordance with his instructions, have the certificates made out, registered, and delivered.

3. There will be no delivery of fractional shares or warrants. Fractional rights will be paid in cash at the market value of the shares and warrants as of the date of presentation of the coupons.

The distribution will continue until October 28, 1983. After October 28, 1983, the Company will sell any shares and warrants of American Express Company not distributed due to non-presentation of coupons 13 and 14, and will hold the US dollar proceeds of such sale for any payment against future presentation of coupons 13 and 14. Presentation of coupons 12, 13 and 14 as outlined hereabove should be made to any of the paying agents listed below:

Manufacturers Hanover Limited, 8 Princes Street, London EC2P 2EN
Banque Internationale à Luxembourg S.A., 2 Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg
Manufacturers Hanover Bank Belgium, 13, rue de Ligne, 1000 Brussels
Manufacturers Hanover Banque Nordique, 20 rue de la Ville-Évêque, 75008 Paris
Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, Bockenheimer Landstrasse 51/53, Frankfurt
Trade Development Bank, 30 Monument Street, London EC3R 8LH
Trade Development Bank (Luxembourg) S.A., 34 avenue de la Porte-Neuve, Luxembourg

*calculated after the effect of the 3 for 2 stock split of 10th August 1983

APPOINTMENTS

Change at Midland

Midland Bank Mr Hugh O'Brien, group treasurer, Thomas Cook, is to be assistant manager (financing operations).

The British Overseas and Commonwealth Banks Association: Mr Peter Weller, a general manager of Standard Chartered Bank, has been elected deputy chairman. Mr G. T. Watson has been appointed honorary secretary.

San Alliance Insurance Group: Mr J. Rochelle, manager, computer department, is to be group computer manager of management services and planning division. Mr E. G. Coward is now group commercial underwriting manager with responsibility for home division commercial underwriting and overseas division international underwriting.

Hawker Siddeley Group: Mr S. D. Coward has joined the board of Brook Control Gear as director and general manager. Mr J. L. Fleming has been appointed to the board of Crompton Instruments (South East Asia), as director and general manager.

Supra Sureparts: Mr A. A. Long has become managing director.

Kaskida Securities: Mr William Tyne is joining the board with special responsibility for the company's capital markets activities in the U.S. He will be based in London.

| Bank | Rate |
|-------------------|----------|
| ABN Bank | 9 1/2 % |
| Barclays | 9 1/2 % |
| BCCI | 9 1/2 % |
| Citibank Savings | 11 1/4 % |
| Consolidated Crds | 9 1/2 % |
| C. Hoare & Co | 9 1/2 % |
| Lloyds Bank | 9 1/2 % |
| Midland Bank | 9 1/2 % |
| Nat Westminster | 9 1/2 % |
| TSB | 9 1/2 % |
| Williams & Glyn's | 9 1/2 % |

Base Lending Rates

| Bank | Rate |
|-------------------|----------|
| ABN Bank | 9 1/2 % |
| Barclays | 9 1/2 % |
| BCCI | 9 1/2 % |
| Citibank Savings | 11 1/4 % |
| Consolidated Crds | 9 1/2 % |
| C. Hoare & Co | 9 1/2 % |
| Lloyds Bank | 9 1/2 % |
| Midland Bank | 9 1/2 % |
| Nat Westminster | 9 1/2 % |
| TSB | 9 1/2 % |
| Williams & Glyn's | 9 1/2 % |

† Mortgage rates only.
‡ 7 day deposits on terms of notice.
§ 12 month, 24 month, 36 month and 48 month.

Marketing and advertising: Torin Douglas

How the building societies have forgotten about profitability

BUILDING SOCIETY ADVERTISING 1981/82

(£'000s as measured by Media, "broad" rate card)

| | 1981 | | 1982 | |
|--------------------|-------|------|-------|------|
| | Spent | Rank | Spent | Rank |
| Halifax | 4625 | 2 | 53 | 6808 |
| Abbey National | 4574 | 1 | 31 | 5238 |
| Lloyds Permanent | 3579 | 3 | 44 | 4850 |
| Bradford & Bingley | 2504 | 4 | 38 | 4481 |
| Natwest | 2503 | 5 | 48 | 3755 |
| Anglia | 1614 | 7 | 57 | 2763 |
| Woolwich | 2265 | 6 | 70 | 2480 |
| Lancaster | 775 | 8 | - | 1795 |
| Alliance | 489 | 9 | - | 1688 |
| Provincial | 1190 | 10 | 38 | 1548 |

companies. But what makes building societies a special case is the fact that they are not in business to make a profit. The temptation, therefore, to spend heavily - on image-building advertising and premium interest rates to savers - is unchecked by normal considerations of cost efficiency.

"Many societies have competed on price, and price alone, no matter what the cost," says Mr Lacy. "In both the short and, more importantly, longer term, most societies' cost of funds - the average rate they pay to all their investors - has risen significantly."

"Almost the only reaction to the challenge we have faced for personal savings has been to pay more to investors," often squeezing lending margins.

Even though building societies do not need to make a profit, Mr Lacy points out, they must still provide a margin between investors' and borrowers' rates which, after expenses and taxation, is sufficient to maintain adequate reserves. "What we are talking about is commercial sense and social responsibility - the ability to provide a mortgage at least cost, and the way to do this is to raise investment at least cost."

The Leicester's marketing strategy over the past two years has been highly successful in these terms. For though the Leicester increased its assets by only 13.5 per cent last year, compared with the 17 per cent and more growth of the other top societies, it topped the league in terms of raising its funds at the lowest cost.

"The Leicester's average cost of funds was lower than all the others in the top ten last year and in 1983, we have reduced that cost even further," says Mr Lacy.

This has been achieved by



On the road: touring building society in TV commercial

concentrating the society's marketing efforts on increasing its share account business, rather than that of the premium interest accounts, which is what most building societies promote these days. The share account, because it pays out less interest, is naturally the most "profitable", and last year 62 per cent of the Leicester's investment balances was held in share accounts.

This was the highest proportion of any society in the top 16; by contrast, the five biggest societies averaged 56.6 per cent

of their business from share accounts and the next 11 only 50 per cent. Three years ago, nearly 80 per cent of the industry's funds was held in share accounts.

The marketing challenge for the Leicester was to make its share account attractive to investors, despite the fact that every other building society was offering the same rate of interest and that other societies had more branches. The answer to the first problem was the Leicestercard - a discount card available to share account

holders - and the other was the link-up with National Giro-bank.

The Leicestercard was devised by Mr Lacy and his newly-appointed advertising agency, Wight Collins Rutherford Scott.

According to Mr Robin Wight, the agency chairman: "Research showed us that there was no great difference in the minds of the public between the Leicester and other societies, so we developed the Leicestercard as a 'separator', to distinguish.

The Leicestercard offers share-account holders cheque book accounts and personal loans, together with discounts on a wide range of goods and services.

The launch, in February last year, received great publicity even before the first advertising positioning the Leicester as the "Morester" - began. "In the space of 10 months, we received applications for 125,000 Leicestercards," says Mr Lacy. "We have now had more than 200,000 by the end of the year it will be 300,000."

In the month after the launch, the Leicester opened a record number of accounts and the growth has continued.

Yet the fact remains that the other big societies drew in deposits faster last year by their credit method of offering interest premiums. The Leicester now seems likely to hedge its bets and follow the other societies' tactics in addition to its own marketing efforts.

The five biggest societies are to offer a 15 per cent differential over basic share rates from September 1, and Mr Lacy believes that Leicester has at least built a stronger spring-board from which to challenge them on their own terms. An announcement is possible within the week.

DEREK CROUCH

Interim Report for the Half Year to 30th June, 1983

| | 1983 First six months £'000's | 1982 First six months £'000's | Year £'000's |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Turnover | 28,625 | 28,789 | 29,806 |
| Earnings before Tax and Interest | 857 | 1,345 | 2,613 |
| Interest Payable | 680 | 834 | 1,739 |
| Earnings before Tax | 177 | 414 | 874 |
| Earnings after all Charges and Taxation | 285 | 210 | (300) |
| Dividends | 203 | 203 | 650 |
| Earnings per Share | 2.29p | 1.69p | 6.5p |

Opencast mining in the U.K. is still profitable, but at a reduced level due principally to the continuing restrictions being placed on output over and above contractual amounts.

In the U.S.A., coal markets are also suffering from the world surplus and Power Inc., the company set up in the U.S.A. five years ago, incurred a loss after interest.

Derek Crouch has now taken complete control of Power Inc. with effect from 18th July by buying out, for a nominal sum, the 40% minority interest held by the two American fuel distribution firms who partnered Derek Crouch in setting up the venture in 1978.

The principal asset of Power Inc. is some 20,000 acres of coal-bearing land in central Pennsylvania with reserves of approximately 20 million tons of coal immediately available for strip mining. A £1.75m. washing plant was commissioned by Power Inc. last year to upgrade the quality of the output and open the way to improved outlets and prices and as a result of the improvement of quality Power Inc. has maintained its share of a highly competitive market.

The Board believes that, although the coal market in the U.S.A., as in other countries, is soft at the moment, the longer term prospects are good. Further investment was required to take advantage of future opportunities and the minority partners were unable to go along this road as a result they agreed to sell their interests in Power Inc. to Derek Crouch. They will, however, continue to act as selling agents for Power Inc. although not on an exclusive basis. The Board believes that the consolidation of Derek Crouch's U.S. interest will bring benefits in the longer term.

On the construction side, the Company is continuing its search for more opportunities in private development areas, reducing total reliance on work in the public sector. Claims and final accounts are still proving extremely difficult to progress and finalise. Claims are only taken into account when agreed.

As yet, there are no signs of an upturn in the construction industry.

The Directors of Derek Crouch intend to pay a maintained interim dividend of 1.63p which will be payable on 28th October, 1983.

DEREK CROUCH PLC

Head Office: Peterborough PE6 7UW

Telephone:

Peterborough (0733) 222341 Telex: 32128



Drillers at work on the first oil operated Bannock Platform.

Britoil's first interim results - a successful period

SUMMARY OF INTERIM RESULTS

First Six Months (Unaudited)

| | 1983 £m | 1982 £m |
|------------------------|---------|---------|
| Turnover | 121.1 | 102.2 |
| Operating Profit | 8.6 | 3.0 |
| Profit before Taxation | 6.2 | (1.8) |
| Profit after Taxation | 4.1 | (2.0) |
| Earnings per Share | 3.0p | (1.7)p |

HIGHLIGHTS OF FIRST SIX MONTHS

- Group Restructuring well advanced opening the way to a strong turnaround in trading performance
- Group Sales up 19% over first half of 1982
- Successful Rights Issue and placement of new shares in April raised £24.2m. net of expenses
- Balance Sheet strengthened during the half year
- Group has diversified further from former traditional business and is now predominantly engaged in the development and manufacturing of high technology electronic components
- Continuing improvement and strong profit growth forecast for second half
- Restoration of Interim Dividend
- Tax residence of parent company successfully moved to Hong Kong
- Operating Profit increased to 7% of Sales
- Pretax profit improved by £8.0m. over comparable period in 1982
- Astec International continues strong growth with substantial increases in both turnover and profits
- Net Short Term debt reduced from £42.0m. at end of 1982 to £2.8m.
- Half Year Interest Cost reduced from £4.6m. to £2.4m.
- Operating profit interest cover raised from 0.7 to 3.6 times
- Shareholders funds increased from £27.6m. at 31 December 1982 to £55.1m.
- Gearing reduced from 172% to 48%
- Joint venture in California set up to exploit micro wafer media for computer mass storage systems
- Acquisition of electronics royalty agreement completed
- New logo identifies group's continuing diversification into High Technology Electronics
- 0.5p on the Ordinary Shares has been declared (1982 Nil)
- Trustee status maintained
- Dividends from Hong Kong subsidiaries can now be received free of further tax charge

BSR INTERNATIONAL PLC

To obtain copies of the full interim report, please write to: The Secretary, BSR International PLC, High Street, Wallaston, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 4PG, England

| Consolidated Profit and Loss Account (Unaudited) | Six Months ended 30.6.83 \$ million | Pro Forma Year ended 31.12.82 \$ million |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Turnover | 568.8 | 1,088.0 |
| Operating profit | 287.2 | 544.9 |
| Net interest payable | (12.4) | (30.6) |
| Profit on ordinary activities before taxation | 274.8 | 514.3 |
| Taxation | | |
| Supplementary petroleum duty | - | (162.8) |
| Petroleum revenue tax | (138.1) | (132.1) |
| Corporation tax | (83.5) | (96.8) |
| Profit on ordinary activities after taxation before extraordinary item | 53.2 | 102.6 |
| Extraordinary item (Privatisation expenses) | - | (3.6) |
| Profit for the financial period | 53.2 | 99.0 |
| Dividends payable | (16.5) | (18.8) |
| Amount set aside to reserves | 36.7 | 80.2 |
| Earnings per share | 10.64p | n/a |
| Funds generated from operations less tax paid | 276.5 | 577.3 |
| Additions to fixed assets | 153.9 | 316.3 |

Note: No comparison has been made with the six months ended 30 June 1982 since during that period the business was wholly under the control of The British National Oil Corporation and figures, prepared on a basis comparable with that used for the six months ended 30 June 1983, are not available. Future interim reports will include a comparison with the same period of the previous year.

Review of Activities

Britoil's equity production for the six months to 30 June 1983 remained steady at around 148,000 barrels of oil per day. During the period, the Company re-affirmed its position as the most active explorer on the United Kingdom Continental Shelf. Of the 35 exploration wells drilled in the period, Britoil was involved in 12 of them - 5 as operator and 7 as a venture partner.

Also during the first six months, an application was made to the Government to develop the North Sea's first condensate field, North Brae, in which Britoil has a 30% interest. In addition, the Board agreed to support an application to develop the Victor gas field in which Britoil has a 25% interest.

In the international arena, the Company recently formed, as operator, a bidding group which will apply for Danish acreage later this year. Also, an agreement was concluded which gives Britoil its first venture in the United States and which provides access to a range of on-shore exploration and development acreage. As a result, the Company now has acreage in five overseas countries. In one of these areas, Dubai, development work commenced on the first phase of the Margham condensate field in which Britoil has a one-third interest.

Results

Operating profit for the six months to 30 June 1983 amounted to £287.2 million. The turnover of £568.8 million reflects an average daily oil production of 147,900 barrels (146,600 in 1982) while the deterioration in the dollar, sterling exchange rate, which more than compensated for the fall in the dollar oil price early in 1983, raised the average sterling realisation per barrel to £19.83 (£19.13 in 1982).

Dividends

As indicated at the time of the Offer for Sale, the Directors intend to pay an interim dividend of 3.3p per share. Payment will be made on 14 October 1983 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 15 September 1983.

For a copy of the full interim report please complete and return the coupon to the Company Secretary, Britoil plc, 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5JJ. Existing shareholders will receive the report shortly.

Name _____
Address _____

T

Britoil

Enterprise in Energy

Cricket: England rescued from early troubles after Tavaré goes in second over and Gower is hit on the head

England's hopes are high as Botham and Randall come bouncing back

By John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

TRENT BRIDGE: England have scored 362 for seven against New Zealand.

England were extricated from their customary troubles by Botham and Randall when the fourth Cornhill Test started yesterday. Coming together at 169 for 5, they added 186 with a really splendid piece of batting. The effect on the balance of the match was devastating. At a quarter past three New Zealand must have been fancying their chances of winning it by close of play they were on the way to losing.

Randall's 83 gave enormous local pleasure, universal pleasure in fact. What a wonderfully resilient creature he is. He always comes bouncing back, laying his game and harbouring no grudges. Having dropped him from the Lord's Test, selectors must have watched him yesterday, playing as well as I have ever seen him, with pleasure mixed with some embarrassment. He knows now that he will be needing his tropical kit again next winter.

Yet the best news of the day was Botham's return to his form of a couple of years ago. As at Lord's last week, when he took Somerset to the final of the NatWest Trophy, he played with massive authority. There were three of those backhand sweeps I don't care for, but even they all went for four, one off a full toss from Bracewell, being flicked away like an angled backhand volley. Botham had batted 22 times for England since making his last 100 for them. Now the prodigal son has returned. There can be much rejoicing at that.

For half its course, the day bore a close resemblance to the opening day of the third Test at Lord's. Then, too, England batted first, and it was Gower again who gave the innings what early confidence it had. Not only that. Whereas at Lord's he was badly missed

when 21, yesterday Lees put him down at the wicket, a straightforward catch, when he was 15. The outfield, artificially green, kept the shine on the ball until Botham and Randall removed it; the pitch, almost unnaturally brown and damp to start with, allowed it to turn a little.

In the end the difference from Lord's was that Randall and not Taylor came in at No.7. This was because England had left out Thomas, a disappointment not so much because it reduced their bowling depth but because Thomas would not be one of the bowlers. The case for preferring Thomas to Cowans seems scarcely to have arisen in the selectors' minds, though. Thomas would have made the more interesting choice.

Tavaré was out to the last ball of the second over, superbly caught at third slip by Cairns, one-handed and diving to his left. England, against the ropes, were kept there when a few balls later Gower ducked into a bouncer from Hadlee. He took his eye off the ball and so broke the golden rule. Peter May said he thought the best player of the bouncer he had ever seen was Reg Simpson, who was a swayer, not a ducker. Gower, bare-headed when he was hit, spurned with fine disdain the helmet subsequently offered him. His hair coated with blood, he proceeded to steer England through an awkward morning. At Lord's, Tavaré helped him do so: yesterday it was Smith.

New Zealand were unlucky. Hadlee beating Gower several times. There was also that one costly chance. Had it been taken, England would have been 44 for two, with the ball still hard and fairly new. Instead, by lunch New Zealand had a morning of frustration to look back on. England were 88 for one and Gower had had a finger dislocated when fielding foolishly close at short-leg to Bracewell. A quick jerk and it was soon put back, but he did not field again.

For the first 90 minutes of the afternoon things looked up for New Zealand. At 84 Smith, propelling forward at Bracewell's off-spin, was caught at silly mid-off by bat and pad. At 136, Gower, when playing beautifully, was yanked by Cairns. At 156, Lamb was out just as Smith had been. Had Bracewell not bowled one short ball an over, England hereabouts might have got wholly bogged down. With Cairns as Bracewell's partner New Zealand found their most effective combination of the day.

Gating was the next to go. For 45 minutes he kept his patience. Then, in the same over from Bracewell, he hit a six into the Cyril Lowther Pavilion at long-on (the ball shinned up a drainpipe and through a top-floor window) and was leg before trying to sweep. This was not only a poor stroke, it was a stupid one, especially for such a good straight-batter. Gating had the rest of the day to rue it while he watched Botham and Randall enjoy the feast that could have been his.

Botham's 100, his twelfth for England, came in 99 balls. He hit three sixes and 14 fours. One of his sixes, a sweep, landed almost in the lap of his joyful wife. Having played himself in he cut loose. In the end, like Randall, he was carried away by the fun of it all. Having reached his 100 he took a huge swing at Snedden and was leg before.

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England were extricated from their customary troubles by Botham and Randall when the fourth Cornhill Test started yesterday. Coming together at 169 for 5, they added 186 with a really splendid piece of batting. The effect on the balance of the match was devastating. At a quarter past three New Zealand must have been fancying their chances of winning it by close of play they were on the way to losing.

Randall's 83 gave enormous local pleasure, universal pleasure in fact. What a wonderfully resilient creature he is. He always comes bouncing back, laying his game and harbouring no grudges. Having dropped him from the Lord's Test, selectors must have watched him yesterday, playing as well as I have ever seen him, with pleasure mixed with some embarrassment. He knows now that he will be needing his tropical kit again next winter.

Yet the best news of the day was Botham's return to his form of a couple of years ago. As at Lord's last week, when he took Somerset to the final of the NatWest Trophy, he played with massive authority. There were three of those backhand sweeps I don't care for, but even they all went for four, one off a full toss from Bracewell, being flicked away like an angled backhand volley. Botham had batted 22 times for England since making his last 100 for them. Now the prodigal son has returned. There can be much rejoicing at that.

For half its course, the day bore a close resemblance to the opening day of the third Test at Lord's. Then, too, England batted first, and it was Gower again who gave the innings what early confidence it had. Not only that. Whereas at Lord's he was badly missed

when 21, yesterday Lees put him down at the wicket, a straightforward catch, when he was 15. The outfield, artificially green, kept the shine on the ball until Botham and Randall removed it; the pitch, almost unnaturally brown and damp to start with, allowed it to turn a little.

In the end the difference from Lord's was that Randall and not Taylor came in at No.7. This was because England had left out Thomas, a disappointment not so much because it reduced their bowling depth but because Thomas would not be one of the bowlers. The case for preferring Thomas to Cowans seems scarcely to have arisen in the selectors' minds, though. Thomas would have made the more interesting choice.

Tavaré was out to the last ball of the second over, superbly caught at third slip by Cairns, one-handed and diving to his left. England, against the ropes, were kept there when a few balls later Gower ducked into a bouncer from Hadlee. He took his eye off the ball and so broke the golden rule. Peter May said he thought the best player of the bouncer he had ever seen was Reg Simpson, who was a swayer, not a ducker. Gower, bare-headed when he was hit, spurned with fine disdain the helmet subsequently offered him. His hair coated with blood, he proceeded to steer England through an awkward morning. At Lord's, Tavaré helped him do so: yesterday it was Smith.

New Zealand were unlucky. Hadlee beating Gower several times. There was also that one costly chance. Had it been taken, England would have been 44 for two, with the ball still hard and fairly new. Instead, by lunch New Zealand had a morning of frustration to look back on. England were 88 for one and Gower had had a finger dislocated when fielding foolishly close at short-leg to Bracewell. A quick jerk and it was soon put back, but he did not field again.

For the first 90 minutes of the afternoon things looked up for New Zealand. At 84 Smith, propelling forward at Bracewell's off-spin, was caught at silly mid-off by bat and pad. At 136, Gower, when playing beautifully, was yanked by Cairns. At 156, Lamb was out just as Smith had been. Had Bracewell not bowled one short ball an over, England hereabouts might have got wholly bogged down. With Cairns as Bracewell's partner New Zealand found their most effective combination of the day.

Gating was the next to go. For 45 minutes he kept his patience. Then, in the same over from Bracewell, he hit a six into the Cyril Lowther Pavilion at long-on (the ball shinned up a drainpipe and through a top-floor window) and was leg before trying to sweep. This was not only a poor stroke, it was a stupid one, especially for such a good straight-batter. Gating had the rest of the day to rue it while he watched Botham and Randall enjoy the feast that could have been his.

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Tied up in Notts: Randall tries unsuccessfully to pull his county colleague Hadlee. (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

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Essex gallop away with the bit between their teeth

By Peter Ball

Colchester: Essex (44pts) beat Worcestershire (13) by an innings and 58 runs.

For the second time this week, not even a more spirited showing by their opponents at the second time of asking could prevent Essex from winning in two days. They claimed maximum points to extend their lead in the championship; it was the sixth time this season they have won by an innings.

With the bit now between their teeth, Essex will take some stopping on the run in Worcestershire's brittle and increasingly injury-ravaged side never looked like doing so, although an audacious 95 by their active captain Patel, and some positive defiance by Humphries and Incheore delayed the inevitable until after tea and enabled their side to regain some self-respect. They could, however, hope to do no more against a much superior team.

In the morning, just as on Monday against Gloucestershire, Fletcher had batted for 100 minutes as his batsmen added 149 to go to the virtually unassailable lead of 229. Once again the pace was set by McEwan, whose eight centuries this season have made an important contribution.

On the second day, Essex were 189, his highest score of the season to reach 2,000 runs and the first to do so for Essex since Doug Insole in 1955.

Any hopes that Worcestershire would make a match of it were dispelled immediately after lunch when they limply lost four wickets for four runs in five overs. Three fell to Lever in space of eight balls, and with the score at 18 for four demoralisation seemed to be setting in.

Almost unnoticed amidst the wreckage was Patel and he was now joined by the carriage victim, Scott, accompanied by a runner. Together they produced one of the most remarkable stands of the season. Patel had clearly decided that an honourable life was worth an age without a name, and Curtis, the runner, became a virtual irrelevant, as fast flashing like a rapier, he put Lever to the sword.

By the time his 50 came up in 45 minutes, Patel had 10 fours and came from the bewildered fast bowler. So had his 60, the occasion of his only stroke of luck, as Patel, who had just been put there for that very purpose, dropped his hook into the stand and squared leg. But when the stand had added 108, Patel lost his

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sleeping partner to the rejuvenated Philip and five runs short of a richly-deserved century he followed. That ended an innings of 14 fours and two sixes, compiled in only 65 balls. It also ended Worcestershire's only serious hope of making Essex but again, but Incheore and Humphries who owed his side some runs after calamitously dropping McEwan on Wednesday, batted well enough to make Essex work for their success. If only some of their predecessors had shown similar resolution.

Worcestershire: First Innings 84 (N. Patel 44)

Worcestershire: Second Innings 13
M. A. McEwan c G. Lever b Turner 13
M. J. Westcott b Lever 1
A. C. Turner c G. Lever b Lever 1
D. N. Patel b Lever 1
T. S. Gurney b Lever 1
M. S. Scott b Lever 1
D. J. Humphries b Lever 1
D. J. Incheore b Lever 1
D. J. Incheore b Lever 1
S. P. Parnman not out 12
A. P. Bridgman b Lever 1
Extras (b 4, w 8) 12
Total 84

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-34, 2-34, 3-38, 4-38, 5-146, 6-157, 7-216, 8-250, 9-258, 10-271.
BOWLING: Lever, 15.5-45-25, 15.5-45-25, 15.5-45-25, 15.5-45-25, 15.5-45-25, 15.5-45-25.

Essex: First Innings 189
G. A. Gough b Lever 189
B. R. Hardie b Lever 189
K. S. McEwan not out 189
M. S. Scott b Lever 189
K. R. Patel c Incheore 189
S. P. Parnman not out 189
S. Turner c Gurney b Lever 189
D. East not out 189
Extras (b 16, w 16) 189
Total 189

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-41, 2-41, 3-208, 4-248, 5-307, 6-352, 7-388, 8-413.
BOWLING: Scott, 7-45-111, 7-45-111, 7-45-111, 7-45-111, 7-45-111, 7-45-111.

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Essex: Second Innings 189
G. A. Gough b Lever 189
B. R. Hardie b

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Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at **THE GOLDSMITHS ARMS**, 130, East Acton Lane, London W.3, on **FRIDAY, the 30th of SEPTEMBER 1983, at 8.45**

provisions of Canon Six, which given that the Methodist Church has been closed since 1953, and that no representatives or representatives of deceased persons can be found, any monument or memorial to the Dockyard Church is in writing to The Port of London Authority, London, Dockyard Base, Chatham.

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Steel gives an ultimatum on party manifesto

By Our Political Staff

Mr David Steel has made clear to his fellow MPs that should he be stripped of authority over the contents of the Liberal Party election manifesto he would find it impossible to continue as leader of the party.

All 16 of Mr Steel's party colleagues in Parliament have received a four-page letter in which he sets out his views on control of the manifesto and other issues to come before the Liberal Assembly in Harrogate next month.

Mr Steel insists that he is "certainly willing and indeed keen to continue the leadership of the party". But his letter is said to be critical of both the Association of Liberal Councillors and the Young Liberals.

MPs were at pains to play down the suggestion that Mr Steel's letter constitutes another threat to resign, in a postscript Mr Steel recalls that the only threat he has made to resign was over the formulation of the Lib-Lab Pact when Mr James Callaghan was prime minister.

With Mr Steel on his sabbatical and no meetings planned before the assembly, MPs maintained it would have been unusual had he not written to them setting out his position.

A telephone call by *Times* to Mr Steel's home at Etrick Bridge confirmed that the Liberal leader, though much recovered from his viral infection, is sticking by his intention not to speak to the press until the assembly.

Though the word "resign" does not appear in the letter to MPs, the plain message is that were the assembly to take away

the leader's control over the manifesto, Mr Steel believes his position would be untenable.

Supporting Mr Steel in an interview on BBC radio yesterday, Mr David Penhaligon, MP for Truro, recalled a 20-minute debate at a past assembly when a brilliant speech by one MP persuaded delegates to vote for free public transport in Britain.

He said: "Everyone knew that was lunacy. They can't elevate a 20-minute debate to being some sort of message from on high that I and the rest of the parliamentary party are supposed to carry around from then onwards."

"In essence what the leader is saying is that the Liberal Party, if it really wants to get into the business of getting power in Britain, really does have to do something about its party fringe at times," he said.

Mr Penhaligon did not elaborate on the identity of those "fringe" elements, but it is believed that about a third of Mr Steel's letter refers to actions of the Association of Liberal Councillors and the Young Liberals.

The National League of Young Liberals and a grassroots organization called Campaign 83 are backing the Daventry Liberal Association motion calling on the assembly to remove the party leader's veto over the manifesto.

Neither Mr Penhaligon nor Mr Alan Beith, believe the controversial proposal has any chance of success.

Alliance 'real threat'

Continued from page 1

Continued because it was the easier party to beat. I thought she was then trying to cling to Labour because she was sure she could always beat them."

But he added: "I think the Alliance will undoubtedly replace Labour as the main party of opposition and as the main party of government."

Certainly, the campaign for the Labour leadership shows no sign of altering Labour's direction. Mr Roy Hattersley, the main challenger to Mr Neil Kinnock, from the Labour right, has repeatedly shown that he is a wholehearted believer in socialism.

The Alliance, meantime,

provided it can work together without the Labour-style wrangling and in-fighting which has broken out in the wake of the election result, shows every sign of putting forward policies within the free enterprise framework. Mrs Thatcher's analysis that this is where the main political threat to the Conservatives will lie.

● The Prime Minister returned to work at 10 Downing Street yesterday after a 13-day holiday by Lake Zug in Switzerland.

She was without the dark glasses which she wore after the eye operation at the beginning of this month. She told staff she felt fine.

Krakatoa volcano disaster 100 years ago today



Spectacular present-day photographs show the volcano between Java and Sumatra is still active a century after it erupted killing 36,000 people. The explosion was heard 3,000 miles away and meteorological effects could be seen in Britain. To mark the centenary the Natural History Museum opens an exhibition this morning, admission free.

Detained leaders moved out of Karachi

Zia may open talks with parties

From Michael Hamlyn, Karachi

Speculation was rife in Karachi last night that the martial law regime of President Zia ul-Haq has decided to open talks with the political parties about the future of the country's democracy.

There was no official confirmation, but the speculation was set off by an administration decision to move at least four of the party leaders from detention in Karachi to a remote government rest house 50 miles away.

Together with the reported presence in the city of senior officers of the Pakistan Intelligence Bureau, the move is taken as a portent that General Zia is relenting on his earlier reluctance to involve the parties.

Virtually every organ of public opinion in Pakistan has called for a dialogue with the party leaders about the move back to an elected democracy which General Zia announced unilaterally on August 12.

He has said that the electoral process will be completed by March, 1985 under a constitution amended to suit his tastes. The political parties have been calling for the immediate

abolition of martial law, the restoration of the 1973 constitution and for elections now.

Public announcements of the President have taken a line much softer towards the politicians than his former tone. He said in Karachi on Wednesday that the politicians were "as much patriots as we are, and declared that he had been meeting political leaders from time to time in the past, and would continue this practice in the future."

If the President is planning such talk it will do much to take the sting out of the present campaign of unrest against his rule, and his proposed constitutional changes. It will in particular defuse a dramatic appeal circulating in Pakistan yesterday under the name of Begum Nasrat Bhutto, the widow of the executed Prime Minister.

Mr Bhutto who is sitting and in Paris, is chairman of the Pakistan People's Party, her husband's former party, and the PPP distributed the statement to newspapers and news agencies.

The Government Informa-

tion Department immediately asked newspapers not to use a word of it.

The appeal urges Sindhis to continue and intensify the struggle, but it is principally aimed at the inhabitants of Punjab, Pakistan's most influential province.

Although Punjab dissidents have been courted arrest in ones and twos each day the same surge of popular feeling against the regime as has driven the Sindhis to widespread revolt has not materialized there. A Punjab rising is essential if the present agitation is to succeed.

The statement said in part: "To the people of Punjab, we the brave warriors of Punjab, we say we know you are anxious to participate in the movement for national redemption. Now is the time to pressure your party office holders and Parliamentarians; tell them to come out."

"We say, listen to the bell that tolls. The bell is tolling, its sounds are echoing. Hear its call... The opportunity to act is here. It is a historic opportunity."

Mitterrand ready to fight Chad rebels

Continued from page 1

France would not interfere directly in the civil war between President Habré and Mr Goukouni Oueddei, leader of the Libyan-backed rebels. It had nothing against Mr Oueddei except that in invading the Libyans to intervene, he has provoked the internationalization of the conflict.

President Mitterrand admitted that getting the various parties involved round a negotiating table could prove difficult, adding in that context that it would be necessary to have "in depth talks" with President Habré.

The Chadian President is likely to be reluctant to agree to negotiations without the prior commitment of the withdrawal of all Libyan troops from the north, however.

M. Mitterrand also warned Libya that it would be "imprudent" to count on the passage of time to wear down the French determination to obtain a fair settlement.

While expressing total opposition to a partition of Chad as part of that settlement, he did not rule out the possibility of

the creation of a federation between the traditionally warring north and south, adding quickly, however, that it was not for France to decide.

On Libyan ambitions in the area, Mitterrand made clear that his difference of view with the United States was not so wide as commonly believed.

● NDJAMENA: M. Henu's visit here came as a surprise to the Chad Government, who became aware of it in the middle of a Cabinet meeting to discuss the crisis (Jon Swain writes). The Defence Minister carried a personal message from President Mitterrand to President Habré.

Some observers interpreted the visit as a sign that the military situation had become "preoccupying" again after the Libyan military build-up over the past few days.

Others interpreted it as a clear sign that French diplomatic attempts to find a solution to the war and to secure a Libyan military withdrawal have reached a critical phase where it has become essential to obtain M. Habré's approval.

Leading article, page 9

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New exhibitions

Wish you were here - Nottingham artists at the seaside, Castle Museum, Notts; Sun 10 to 5.45. (Closes Sept 25).

General

Carnival Glass - Poor Man's Tiffin, Castle Museum, the Castle, Nottingham; Mon to Sun 10 to 5.45. (Closes Sept 10).

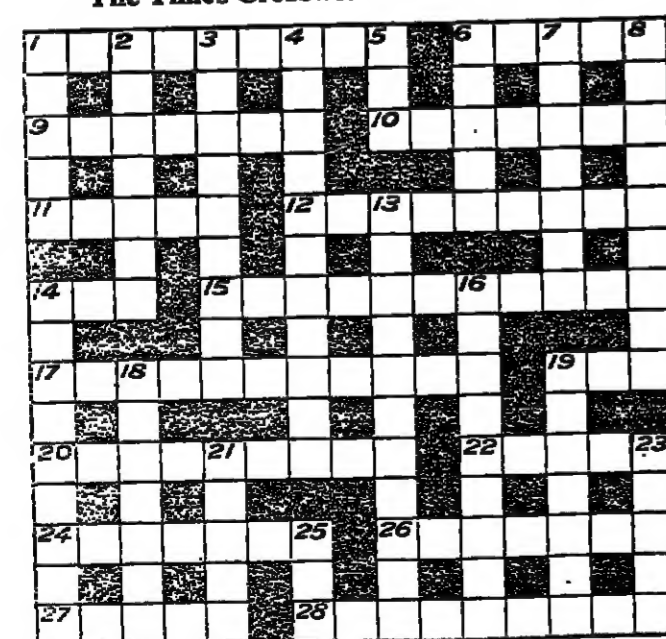
Festival of Bread: baking, milling, harvesting exhibits and demonstrations Ashley Parish, Market Drayton, Shropshire; cooking starts at 10.

Opening of Music Festival, Nostell Priory, near Wakefield, Yorkshire, 7.

Sheep Dog Trials, Platt Wood Farm, via Lyme Park, Stockport, 8 unit dusk (until Sunday).

Flower Festival, Crowland Abbey, East Street, Crowland, Lincs, 9 to 9.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,218



- ACROSS**
- 1 Was it form-filling that sent him mad? (15,4).
 - 2 But grandeur was no breaker of (15,4).
 - 3 Act revised to include nude entertainment (17).
 - 4 Young devil pops in to beat one of the drums (7).
 - 5 What a new school needs to get to be progressive? (5).
 - 6 In Corman mix-up I'm exceedingly gloomy (9).
 - 7 A little sun fish (3).
 - 8 Rainbow trout so amused to be thus made monochrome? (17,4).
 - 9 Critic of Wordsworth as sonneteer seen in the Abbey? (15,6).
 - 10 Flier in a cat-fight (5).
 - 11 Stop in, in tricky event, without hesitation (9).
 - 12 One's returned in state - hence Columbus (5).
 - 13 Bordered on being an object of ridicule to newsmen (7).
 - 14 Sounds like landlord's table inside the ship (7).
 - 15 Pass on and leave a holy man in California (5).
 - 16 Temperamental Muppet was so obstinate! (9).
- DOWN**
- 1 Black stone home whither perhaps 10 came (5).
 - 2 Be right in the red if this describes your cheques (7).
 - 3 Historian's ordered out among miracle-play villains (9).
 - 4 Met blow-out as one might describe it (11,11).
 - 5 Amphibian's decapitated - not right (3).
 - 6 Married French girl-friend so-called (8).
 - 7 Hall perhaps in Westminster district in this tongue (7).
 - 8 Sail hoisted when low bowler captures a Kent opener (9).
 - 9 Lead-swinging art master unwilling to leave? (11).
 - 10 First singer in tears if more than one such rebuke (9).
 - 11 Terribly phib. I ride in a sort of airship (9).
 - 12 What fans do in French - so English (17).
 - 13 Foreign leader away from the coast in the country (7).
 - 14 A riot that's out of proportion (5).
 - 15 Some had dedicated what is put on (5).
 - 16 A pickpocket - one that's fairly lucky (3).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,217

ACROSS

- 1 BLOOMING
- 2 RED
- 3 MURDER
- 4 BLOOMING
- 5 BLOOMING
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CONCISE CROSSWORD, PAGE 6

Flower Festival and exhibition:

James Slade, Bolton Parish Church, Churchgate, Bolton, 9 am.

Music

The Malings Proms: Recital by the Melos Ensemble: Snape Maltings Concert Hall, Aldeburgh, 7.30.

Concert by the Somerset Chamber Orchestra, Yatton Parish Church, Yatton, Somerset, 7.30.

Recital by Colin Carr (cello) and Francis Grier (piano), Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, 8.

Exhibitions in progress

Works of Albert Irvin, Ikon Gallery, 58-72 John Bright Street, Birmingham; Tues to Sat 10 to 6, closed Sun and Mon (closes Sept 17).

Works of The Patchwork of our lives: Carmarthen Museum, Aberystwyth, Carmarthen; Mon to Sat 10 to 4.30 (closes Sept 10).

Paintings by Mary Charlton, Festival Gallery, Pierpoint Place, Bath; Tues to Sat 11 to 5, closed Sun and Mon (closes Sept 10).

Work of Sandro Chia, figurative painter, Fruitmarket Gallery, 25 Market Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 7, Sun 2 to 6 (closes Sept 17).

Blue Bird and other works by Philippe Beale, Southampton Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Southampton; Tues to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4, Sun 2 to 5, closed Mon (closes Sept 25).

Take a Seat: chairs by British furniture makers, The Workshops, Market Court, Cirencester, Glos; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, closed Sun (closes Sept 24).

Warning off

Have you warned your children lately not to go with strangers? The Central Office of Information have issued a timely memorandum, on the subject. It emphasizes that they should never accept sweets or go anywhere with strangers. And if how kind the person may appear to be. They should always come straight home, or let parents know exactly where they are. And if they're going out to play, they should be told to stay with their friends and not wander off alone.

New transmitter

Channel 4 will increase its potential viewing figures in the South-East area by 300,000 from today when the Darvel television transmitting station opens.

Anniversaries

Births: Sir Robert Walpole, 1st earl of Orford, statesman. Houghton Hall, Norfolk, 1676; Joseph-Michel Montgolfier, balloonist, Annonay, France, 1740; Antoine-Laurent Lavoisier, scientist, Paris, 1743; Albert, Prince Consort of Queen Victoria, Coburg, Germany, 1819; John Buchan, 1st Baron Tweedsmuir, novelist and governor general, 1935-40; of Canada, Perth, 1875; Guillaume Apollinaire, poet, Paris, 1880; Deaths: William James, philosopher and psychologist, Chocoma, New Haven, 1915; Lon Chaney, film actor, New York, 1930; Frank Harris, writer, Nice, 1921; The Romans led by Julius Caesar, invaded Britain 55BC; Edward III defeated the French at Crecy, 1346.

Food prices

Supplies of fresh herring seem to have been unaffected by the EEC dispute over North Sea quotas and the consequent ban on fishing by certain countries, including Britain.

The West of Scotland fishery has filled the gap, and at 60p to 70p a pound, herring is one of the week's best buys. Mackerel, fillets, too, are recommended as an accompaniment to the salad season.

Chops, normally an extravagant way of buying meat, are none-the-less ideal for barbecues. Prices of both lamb and pork generally range from about £1 a lb to nearly £2, depending on the cut, but there are some cheaper buys: New Zealand lamb chops in Fine Fare 99p, frozen pork chops in Sainsbury's 99p, and a whole leg of English lamb at as little as £1.20 a lb should not be missed.

Autumn and winter supplies of vegetables will not be as plentiful as usual. Acute shortages nowadays are unlikely, but if you have a large freezer, take the opportunity now to buy before prices rise. French and runner beans at about 40p a pound are excellent quality.

Other good buys include salad tomatoes, 20p a pound, beefsteak tomatoes only slightly dearer, peaches and pears 10p-12p, honeydew melons about 25p each and Discovery apples becoming cheaper about 35p a pound.

The pound

| | Bank | Bank |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| | Buy | Sell |
| Australia \$ | 29.10 | 27.70 |
| Canada \$ | 33.50 | 32.50 |
| Denmark Kr | 1.92 | 1.84 |
| France F | 14.94 | 14.24 |
| Germany DM | 8.54 | 8.57 |
| Japan Yen | 142.12 | 138.77 |
| Norway Kr | 4.14 | 3.94 |
| Portugal Esc | 148.00 | 136.00 |
| Spain Ptas | 166.67 | 160.00 |
| Sweden Kr | 247.00 | 235.00 |
| Switzerland Fr | 363.00 | 365.00 |
| USA \$ | 4.64 | 4.42 |
| Yugoslavia Dnr | 11.64 | 11.07 |
| | 189.00 | 180.00 |
| | 233.00 | 222.00 |
| | 12.30 | 11.70 |
| | 3.37 | 3.21 |
| | 1.55 | 1.50 |
| | 1.55 | 1.50 |

Top films

Top box-office films in London:

- 1 Octopussy
- 2 Return of the Jedi
- 3 Superman II
- 4 Mission: Impossible
- 5 The Meaning of Life
- 6 Flashdance
- 7 Quatre
- 8 Educating Rita
- 9 The Outsiders
- 10 Heat and Dust

The top five in the provinces:

- 1 Octopussy
- 2 Superman II
- 3 Educating Rita
- 4 Heat and Dust
- 5 First Blood

Compiled by Screen International

Roads

London and South-east: A406: Delays on A406 Road (North Circular Road) Edmonton, A23: Delays on Brighton Road near Hickstead road round, A4, A33, A329: Heavy traffic in Reading town centre for rock festival.

Midlands: A46: Heavy traffic at Radcliffe Road and on A468 at Wilford Lane for 4th Test at Trent Bridge, Nottingham.

North: Extra traffic in Blackpool for illuminations and along M55 and A583, M62: Delays, traffic share one carriageway between junction 20 (M1) and junction 30 (Rothwell), M63: Northbound slip road on the M62 closed. Alternative route signposted near Preston, Lancashire.

Wales and West: A353, A354: Extra traffic in Weymouth for Royal Regatta, M5: Lane closures between junctions 21 and 24 (Weston Super Mare to Bridgewater) Scotland: Extra traffic for Edinburgh Military Tattoo and international Festival, A915, A885: Heavy traffic in Highlands.

Other: Lane closures on Great Western Road, near Cromwell St, Glasgow.

Information supplied by the A.A.

The papers

The Harare Herald, the state-owned Zimbabwe daily, said that the talks between Dr Perez de Cuellar and the South African officials on the future of Namibia was "an indication of how seriously the world is taking the situation."

Dr Perez de Cuellar is the first UN chief to visit South Africa in more than 10 years. It may not be quite coincidental that he is doing so on the eve of Namibia Day when the people of the occupied territory will be celebrating 17 years of armed struggle.

The Daily Mail talks of the importance of the two unlovely executive members of the infamous Paedophile Information Exchange giving press interviews in which they gloried in their unwholesome urges to have sex with children. It is plainly wrong, the paper says, that these two creatures should be allowed to carry on and proselytize for their nauseating PIE, an organization which explicitly aims at promoting sex with children in defiance of elementary morality and in contravention of the law. There is no excuse for any further delay in bringing them and their associates to book. The Attorney General should institute prosecution immediately.

Zoo guide

The Zoological Society of London has published a handsome new guide to the London Zoo at Regent's Park. The 50-page booklet is available from the Retail Department, London Zoo, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY, or at the zoo. 75p (plus 35p p & p).

Weather

N and NW Scotland will be cloudy with some outbreaks of drizzle, and later in the day more widespread and persistent rain will spread from the W.

6am to midnight

London, central S England, E Midlands: Dull at first, sunny periods developing, dry; wind NE moderate; max temp 23C (73F).

W Midlands, S England, S Wales: Dull at first, sunny periods developing, dry; wind NE moderate; max temp 22C (72F).

Wales, NW England, Lake District: Dull at first, sunny periods developing, dry; wind NE moderate; max temp 21C (70F).

Wales, NW England, Lake District: Dull at first, sunny periods developing, dry; wind NE moderate; max temp 21C (70F).

Wales, NW England, Lake District: Dull at first, sunny periods developing, dry; wind NE moderate; max temp 21C (70F).

Lighting-up time

London: 8.20 pm to 5.34 am
Bristol: 8.41 pm to 5.44 am
Cardiff: 8.54 pm to 5.58 am
Edinburgh: 8.50 pm to 5.58 am
Glasgow: 8.50 pm to 5.58 am
Manchester: 8.50 pm to 5.58 am
Newcastle: 8.50 pm to 5.58 am
Nottingham: 8.50 pm to 5.58 am
Sheffield: 8.50 pm to 5.58 am
Southampton: 8.50 pm to 5.58 am
Stoke-on-Trent: 8.50 pm to 5.58 am
Wolverhampton: 8.50 pm to 5.58 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud, 1, fair, 2, rain, 3, sun, 4, sun, 5, sun, 6, sun, 7, sun, 8, sun, 9, sun, 10, sun, 11, sun, 12, sun, 13, sun, 14, sun, 15, sun, 16, sun, 17, sun, 18, sun, 19, sun, 20, sun, 21, sun, 22, sun, 23, sun, 24, sun, 25, sun, 26, sun, 27, sun, 28, sun, 29, sun, 30, sun, 31, sun, 1, sun, 2, sun, 3, sun, 4, sun, 5, sun, 6, sun, 7, sun, 8, sun, 9, sun, 10, sun, 11, sun, 12, sun, 13, sun, 14, sun, 15, sun, 16, sun, 17, sun, 18, sun, 19, sun, 20, sun, 21, sun, 22, sun, 23, sun, 24, sun, 25, sun, 26, sun, 27, sun, 28, sun, 29, sun, 30, sun, 31, sun, 1, sun, 2, sun, 3, sun, 4, sun, 5, sun, 6, sun, 7, sun, 8, sun, 9, sun, 10, sun, 11, sun, 12, sun, 13, sun, 14, sun, 15, sun, 16, sun, 17, sun, 18, sun, 19, sun, 20, sun, 21, sun, 22, sun, 23, sun, 24, sun, 25, sun, 26, sun, 27, sun, 28, sun, 29, sun, 30, sun, 31, sun, 1, sun, 2, sun, 3, sun, 4, sun, 5, sun, 6, sun, 7, sun, 8, sun, 9, sun, 10, sun, 11, sun, 12, sun, 13, sun, 14, sun, 15, sun, 16, sun, 17, sun, 18, sun, 19, sun, 20, sun, 21, sun, 22, sun, 23, sun, 24, sun, 25, sun, 26, sun, 27, sun, 28, sun, 29, sun, 30, sun, 31, sun, 1, sun, 2, sun, 3, sun, 4, sun, 5, sun, 6, sun, 7, sun